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More Vermont youth using mental health services than ever, report finds

By ANNA WOOD
Staff Writer

The number of children using mental health services in Vermont has doubled over the past two decades, according to a recent task force report from Building Bright Futures, a Williston-based nonprofit. The report found that in 1999, roughly 1,700 children ages nine and under used mental health services in Vermont. Despite the state's shrinking population, 3,322 children used the same services in 2018.

Building Bright Futures (BBF), a public-private partnership, monitors the state's early care, health and education systems. Established in 2010 by law, it advises Vermont administration and legislation on early childhood policy.

Beth Truzansky, Deputy Director of BBF, sees the increase in mental health service use as a preventative measure rather than as a social response. The report results point to a cultural shift in mental health education and increased awareness of mental health services.

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SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students and community members crowded into Wilson Hall on Feb. 13 to hear Naomi Klein, a renowned climate writer and activist, speak about justice and hope in an uncertain time. Read more on Page 2.

McKibben talks arrest, upcoming mass action

By NICOLE POLLACK
News Editor

This election season, Bill McKibben is taking on more than just politics. He was arrested last month during a sit-in at a Chase Bank in Washington D.C. that served as a trial run for the national mass action, "Stop the Money Pipeline," set to take on the financial sector this April.

"I think it's worth remembering that there are two levers of power on our planet," said McKibben, a writer, activist and scholar-in-residence at Middlebury, in an interview with The Campus. "One of them is political and the other is financial."

McKibben published a piece in The New Yorker last September calling climate change a timed test. He described political change as usually involving slow compromise even in a working system, something not seen in what he called a "dysfunctional gridlock" in Washington.

"Even if everything went great in the election in November, it's still not like our government's going to turn on a dime and do all the things we need," McKibben told The Campus. He sees rapid political transformation as unlikely at best, especially on a global scale.

But Wall Street, McKibben said, remains the money capital of the world. With swift action needed worldwide, he said it should come from the financial sector as well as the political one.

"When Wall Street moves, it moves quickly," McKibben said. "If Chase did make some announcement that they weren't going to be, say, loaning for expansionary fossil fuel projects, then 45 minutes later, the stock market would have reflected that in powerful ways."

McKibben identifies the money

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Student Ambassadors broaden admission office's reach

By GIGI HOGAN
Staff Writer

Five first-year students who arrived on campus in the fall of 2018 were saddened, though not surprised, by the lack of diversity on campus. In response, Maya Gee, Roni Lezema, Dennis Miranda-Cruz, Cynthia Chen and Myles Maxie, all of the class of 2022, partnered with the admissions office to establish a Student Ambassador Program, which was put into practice last fall.

The program enables Middlebury students from rural, low-income and ethnically diverse areas to serve as admissions ambassadors to high schools in their hometowns and surrounding areas — areas that the college's admissions counselors don't visit often.

"We believe that, above all else, students want to go to a college where they envision themselves being happy," the program's founders said in an October Campus op-ed. "In our experience, the best way to help them have that vision in the first place is by watching and listening to someone from their own hometown speak about the school."

The five students met on the SGA Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (formerly known as the Institutional Diversity Committee) in the fall of 2018.

"The Middlebury community as we see it right now reflects a lot of what Middlebury used to be, but also the evolving efforts to include more students of marginalized backgrounds that typically weren't represented in higher education," said Gee, who grew up in rural Hawaii. Gee visited a number of high schools in her capacity as an ambassador when she was home this winter break.

"If we want to be fostering a diverse community on campus, we have to make sure that we are inviting those communities to campus," she added.

Although they discussed developing this program as a student organization, the founding members agreed that they wanted it to be institutionalized under the umbrella of the admissions office. Nicole Curvin, the dean of admissions, and Santana Audet '13, the senior assistant director of admissions and coordinator of diversity, inclusion and access initiatives, have been integral in this endeavor, according to Gee.

The founders began collaborating with the admissions office that fall and ran what they call a "pilot program" in spring 2019.

While the program is now an official part of the admissions office, it remains entirely student-run.

"Five first years came to us two years ago and I left that meeting so

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Comic relief

Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens and The Local Noodle shed humorous light on Charles Murray's upcoming visit.

LILY LAESCH
Layout Editor

On a typical day, Torre Davy '21 will see maybe one or two posts on the "Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens" Facebook page, which he administers. But on Jan. 22, when an op-ed published in The Campus announced the return of Charles Murray, a whopping 29 memes were posted in the group, followed by a continuous barrage of content over the next few days.

The page, which boasts nearly 3,000 members, is home to a flurry of online student activity that usually centers on day-to-day student grievances — dining hall lines, class registration, job searches and finals-week panic. However, the page can also serve as a safe haven for students to air deeper frustrations during campus controversies.

Katie Corrigan '19 founded the page in 2017 as a forum to vent with her friends after the events of Murray's most recent visit to campus. Now, as Middlebury prepares for Murray's third visit, many students are once again leaning into humor as both a coping mechanism and a means of opining on the invitation.

"I think humor's great, especially for our generation, because it's a space where people can get angry but still make jokes about it so it's not purely a bad thing," Davy said.

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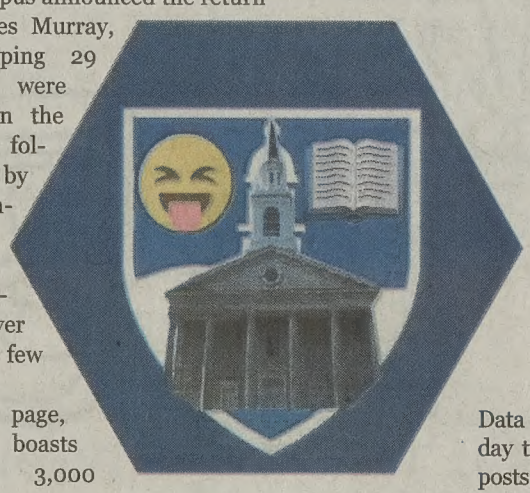

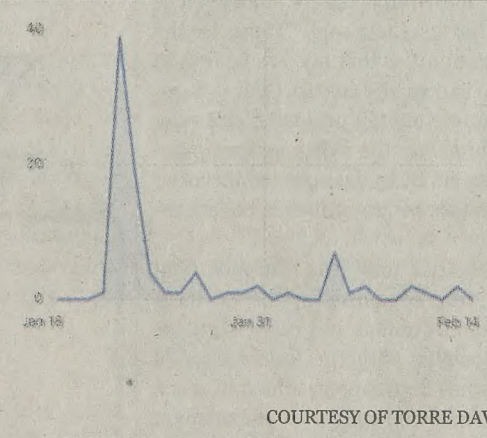

COURTESY OF TORRE DAVY

Data from Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens, on the day that Murray's visit was announced the page saw 29 posts, with more to come in the following days.

News flash! SGA brings free digital newspaper subscriptions back to students

By ABIGAIL CHANG
SGA Correspondent

Students will now have access to free New York Times and Wall Street Journal subscriptions, the Student Government Association (SGA) announced in an email to the student body on Sunday evening.

The initiative to provide students access to the two subscriptions, spearheaded by SGA director of institutional affairs Miki Nakano '20 and SGA treasurer Kenshin Cho '20, has been in the works since October, Cho said.

SGA arranged the daily delivery of 60 print copies of the Times for several years, but eventually decided that the limited number of papers was not worth the cost — which would have been $27,394, plus a price increase, for annual campus-wide print and web access. In November 2018, the SGA stopped funding campus-wide online access to the Times, also for financial reasons.

The newest decision to provide the student body with online subscriptions to the two newspapers was informed by a survey conducted of other colleges by the library. The results indicated that most of the roughly 80 schools contacted had subscriptions to one or both of the publications, according to Cho. SGA also felt it was important to provide the subscriptions so that students could more easily stay informed about world events and complete assigned reading for classes without running into paywalls.

Cho was unable to share how much SGA is paying for either subscription, as both newspapers included non-disclosure agreements in their contracts with the college. Cho explained how this made the price-negotiation process challenging, as SGA could not legally compare what they were quoted with the prices paid by peer institutions. SGA will have the opportunity to renegotiate pricing at the

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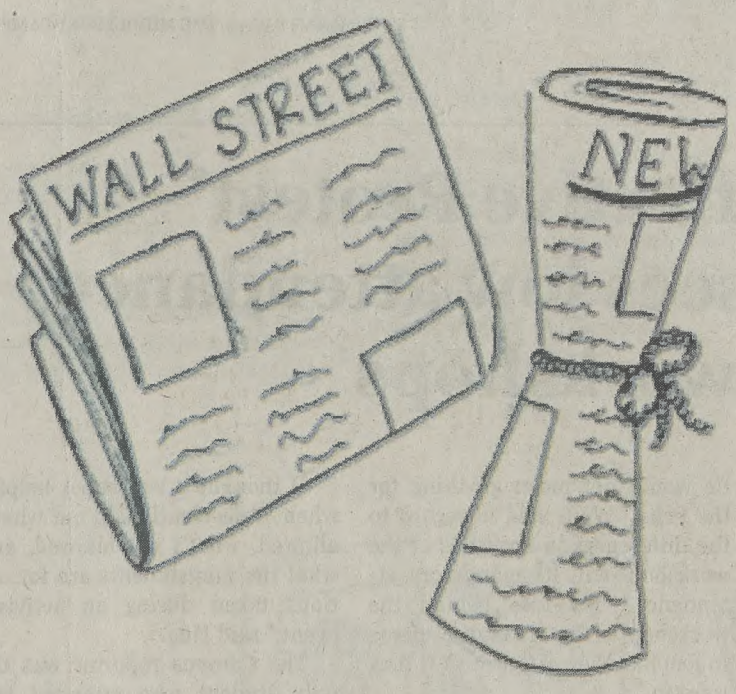

SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

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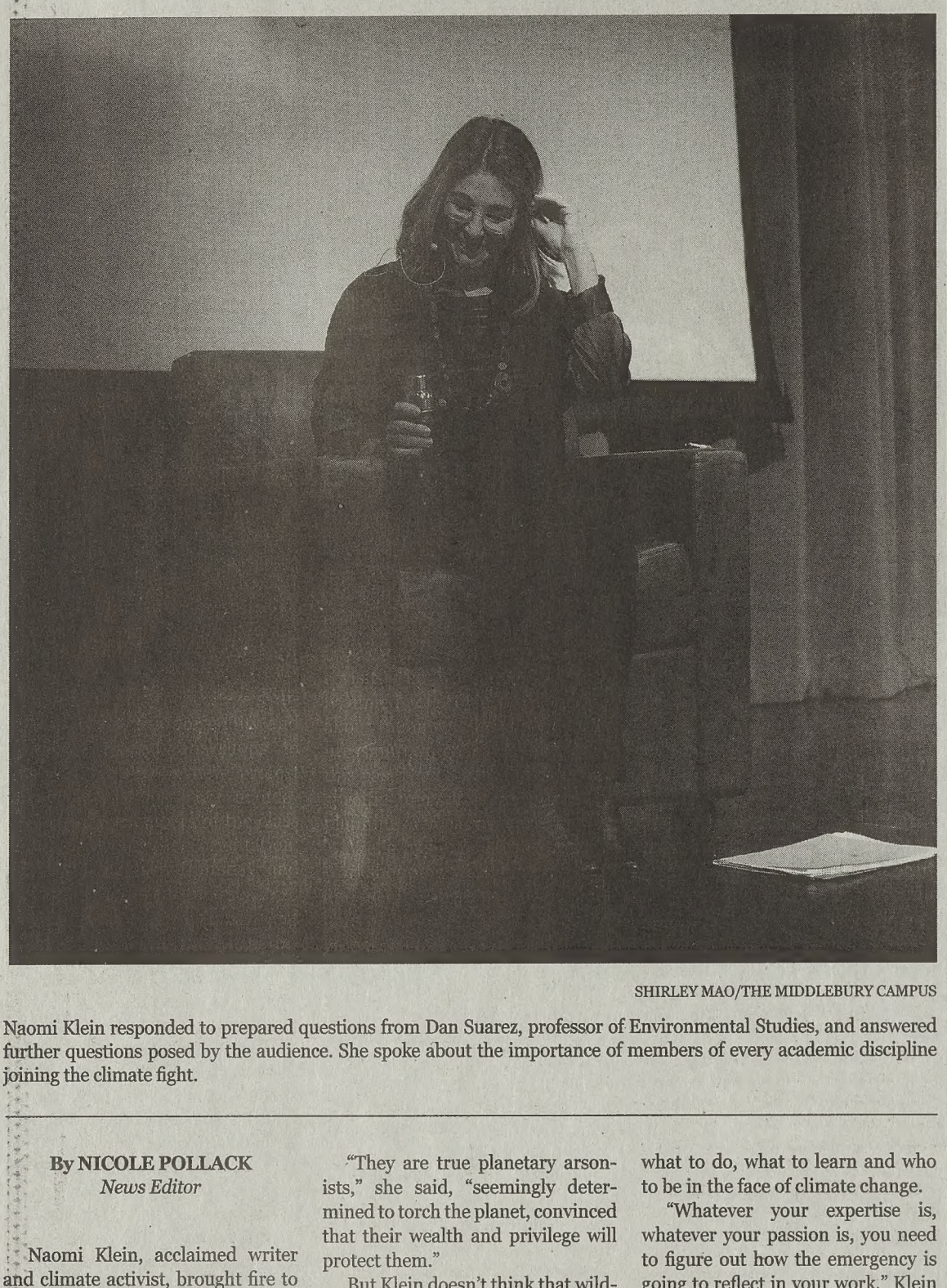
Writer, activist Naomi Klein talks justice and hope in a warming world



SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Naomi Klein responded to prepared questions from Dan Suarez, professor of Environmental Studies, and answered further questions posed by the audience. She spoke about the importance of members of every academic discipline joining the climate fight.

By NICOLE POLLACK
News Editor

Naomi Klein, acclaimed writer and climate activist, brought fire to Wilson Hall last Thursday.

Klein spoke to a packed Wilson Hall about her new book, "On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal" for this year's Scott A. Margolin '99 Lecture. The talk addressed justice and hope in a warming world, but fire was the key theme of the night.

Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben opened the talk with an abridged account of Klein's long history in the climate movement, including her work as the first board member of 350.org, the climate action non-profit McKibben founded. Then, Klein and moderator Dan Suarez, a professor of Environmental Studies, took the stage.

Klein described in vivid detail the infernos still burning across Australia and the 2018 fire that claimed 86 lives in Paradise, California. She said that worsening wildfires and other unprecedented natural disasters are, unmistakably, results of global warming.

"I don't think it is a coincidence that as our planet's temperature increases, the political temperature is increasing," Klein said. She identified growing political instability as a key reason behind the rise of far-right leaders like President Donald Trump, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"They are true planetary arsonists," she said, "seemingly determined to torch the planet, convinced that their wealth and privilege will protect them."

But Klein doesn't think that wildfires and what she dubbed "the fires of hate" are the only important fires of our time. The third fire, she said, "is our fire."

Klein has a clear message about what to do with that third fire: change everything. A radical future awaits us, she said. We must decide what kind of radical we want it to be. She envisions a future in which we rebuild zero-carbon societies founded on the ideals of equity and resilience. "Why wouldn't we?" she said. "We're changing anyway."

And that change is already visible: three years ago, Klein said, climate ranked 19th on voters' list of priorities at the Iowa and New Hampshire Democratic primaries. This year, climate came second, only after health care.

The house is on fire, she said, and to truly step into this moment in history, we must all work to clear away the debris from those flames — to move past whatever it is that's stopping politicians from confronting climate change. For Klein, that means electing Bernie Sanders to the White House. She said she sees Sanders as the only candidate who will treat climate as the priority that it is.

During the Q&A portion of the talk, Suarez asked Klein how young people should deal with the questions of how to live, where to go, what to do, what to learn and who to be in the face of climate change.

"Whatever your expertise is, whatever your passion is, you need to figure out how the emergency is going to reflect in your work," Klein said.

Lynn Travnikova '20.5 brought up the question of inclusion and exclusion in the climate movement. "How do we get [people from marginalized communities] inside the conversation, and how do we make sure that regardless of race and socioeconomic status people feel like they are part of that conversation, and their voice matters?" she asked.

For a long time, the mainstream environmental movement has not represented the communities that are most impacted by environmental harms, Klein said. "Those are the communities that need to be first in line to own and control their own renewable energy projects," she said, referencing the fights against pipelines led by indigenous people as an example of more diverse collaboration.

Suarez told The Campus that the talk, organized by the Environmental Council and other students associated with the Environmental Studies department, aimed to reach students beyond the department who were grappling with what it means to come of age in a time of climate breakdown. He said that achieving the radical transformation Klein called for will take everyone.

"It's going to take all kinds of roles, all kinds of capacities and all kinds of contexts," he said.

'There was a day when like half the class was gone': flu season hits hard this J-Term

By ABIGAIL CHANG
SGA Correspondent

With flu season in full swing, students across campus spent J-Term coughing, downing Emergen-C and trekking through the snow to Parton Health Center. This flu season was particularly bad due to inaccuracy in this year's flu vaccine.

"Parton Health Services was quite busy in mid-late January helping students with influenza-like-illness," said Dr. Mark Peluso, the director of health services and the college and head team physician.

Flu season can run from October to May but is usually at its height between December and February in the U.S. Parton Health Services encourages students to get vaccinated in anticipation of the annual epidemic, and provides 450 to 750 flu shots each year.

Vaccines vary from year to year, depending on the circulating strains of influenza. The food and Drug Administration (FDA) identifies the strains for the upcoming flu season nearly a year in advance so that manufacturers have time to produce enough doses. This can result in an inaccurate vaccine, since strains of the virus change overtime.

This flu season, one of the FDA's B-lineage predictions was inaccurate, resulting in a less effective vaccine.

Ella Jones '23 remarked that she and many of her Arabic 102 classmates fell ill during J-Term.

"There was a day when like half the class was gone," she said.

Jones herself developed a fever and a cough halfway through J-Term and visited Porter ExpressCare where she was prescribed antibiotics for a potential ear infection, but was not tested for flu. She explained that she had hoped she would be tested for the virus so she could warn friends and be prescribed Tamiflu, an antiviral that can shorten the duration of flu symptoms.

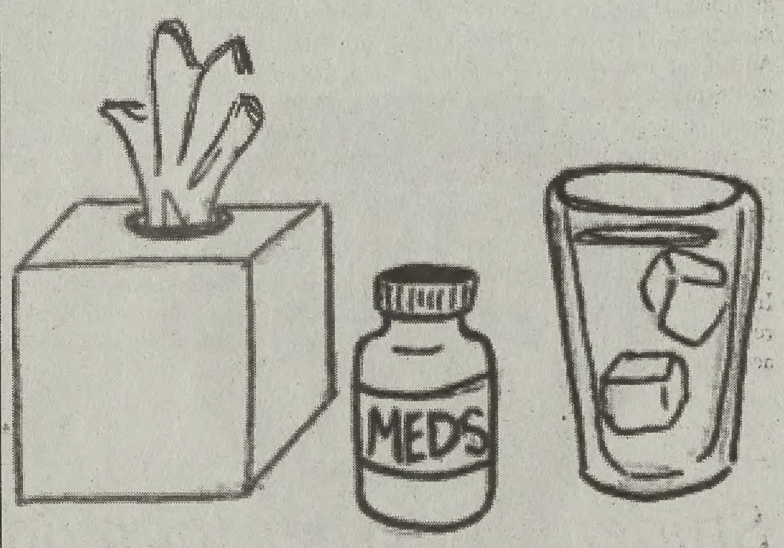
The doctors at Parton told Sophie Bolinger '22 that she most likely had the flu when she came in during J-Term. Bolinger said she had to wait two hours for an appointment after she walked in since she had not scheduled one ahead of time. She explained that she was not tested for the flu, but the doctor offered to prescribe Tamiflu.

Both Jones and Bolinger said they attended classes for some of the time they were sick. With such a limited number of class meetings during J-Term, neither felt she could afford to be absent for long. "I definitely should have missed more, but I went because I felt like I couldn't miss class because I had already missed three days, and it honestly really affected my performance in the class," Bolinger said.

"Flu testing is available at Parton," Peluso said in an email to The Campus, "However, when flu is widespread in the community, the CDC guidelines for flu testing support a clinical diagnosis (i.e. no testing is necessary) unless the patient is being admitted to the hospital or is at high risk of complications."

Local health services attempt to mitigate the effects of the virus within the Middlebury community through vaccination, tamiflu and the typical protocol for preventing the spread of illnesses. However, with so many students living so close together, viruses like flu can spread quickly throughout the college.

"Dorms, dining halls, classrooms and other shared facilities place students in a unique situation with respect to exposure," Peluso said. "Flu shots, cough etiquette, hand washing and hand hygiene, maintaining hydration, and getting plenty of rest are good ways to reduce risk of getting the flu."



SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

College holds mandatory 'Effective Protest' workshops for incoming Febs; sees low attendance at optional all-student workshops

By RACHEL LU
SGA Correspondent

Renee Wells, the college's director of education for equity and inclusion, hosted workshops to review the school's new protest policy. Workshops were mandatory for new members of the class of 2023.5 during their orientation, and available last Thursday and Friday to interested students.

Last week's workshops were titled "Informed Activism: Understanding and Navigating Open Expression and Demonstration Policies on Campus." The Feb orientation version of the workshop was titled "Free Speech: Effective Protests & Demonstrations."

The workshops come three years after Charles Murray's last talk on campus, less than a year after Ryszard Legutko's controversial canceled lecture and six weeks in advance of Murray's impending revisit. The workshop specifically aimed to provide explanations about the new Policy on Open Expression, which came into effect this past November, and to answer specific questions for students planning advocacy events.

Wells has extensive experience workshopping with students, staff and faculty, and a primary component of her role is to assess campus climate concerns and identify ways to address them. Last spring, she observed a nervousness surrounding students' approach to planning protests in response to Legutko.

"I realized that there were a lot of students who wanted to participate in the protest, but were concerned about possibly being sanctioned." Wells said, noting that the college sanctioned 74 students for their roles in the protests against Charles Murray.

Wells does not want students to feel discouraged from engaging in activism, as she believes it is an important component to the non-academic development of higher education.

"Preparing students to critically think about what's going on around them and to respond and advocate for things they believe in actually prepares them for the greater context we live in." she said.

This is the first year a workshop about activism has been mandatory for an incoming class. Wells believes this is part of the college's effort to provide more transparency on what activism can look like at Middlebury.

"Returning students would know that we passed a new open expression policy, but that title would not mean anything for the Febs," Wells said in regard to the differences in the titles of the workshop, and its mandatory attendance. "My idea behind the workshop is that I want students to feel like they can protest if they want to."

The Feb workshop focused heavily on curiosity surrounding Charles Murray's impending arrival. Wells had expected this to happen and was prepared to answer Febs' questions, while being informative about campus activism in general.

Tim Hua '23.5, who attended the workshop during Feb orientation, said he is open to participating in protests during his time at Middlebury. Hua said that the workshop did not change his general impression of activism at the college.

"I thought it was super helpful when Wells clearly laid out what's allowed, what's not allowed, and what the punishments are for actions taken during an activism event," said Hua.

The Campus reporter was the only student who attended last Thursday's workshop.

"When I read the description of the event, I initially thought it would be from an administrative perspective, so it might be trying to teach students why not to protest, or how to protest solely in a peaceful manner," said Lily Jones '23. "But after learning what the workshop actually was, I think I should have looked into it more because that wasn't the intent of the workshop."

Satirical platforms on campus provide humorous outlets during contentious times

Continued from Page 1

Davy also said he recognizes the importance of having a forum that exists for independent student expression, which also has the ability to unite thousands of students through comedy and shared experiences.

Davy did not anticipate the influence that the meme page would have when he took over for Corrigan last year.

"The growth has just been crazy to the point where it has become a major source of information for students," Davy said. "It's giving you real news in a satirical way."

The other major source of comedic relief on campus is the satirical publication The Local Noodle. Originally the brainchild of Ellie Simon '19.5, an independent scholar who majored in Humor Studies, The Noodle is now spearheaded by Editor in Chief Henry Cronic '21.

> *"Middlebury as an institution leans towards pushing some issues of power underneath the carpet, and satire doesn't let you off the hook for that."*
>
> *J. Finley, The Local Noodle's adviser*

"I do think comedy serves a very important role in regard [to larger issues] because it allows people to talk about it in a way that doesn't always lead to a fight," Cronic said. In reference to Murray's return, Cronic said he thinks the role of satire will be to "call out the administration on how ridiculous this is."

Simon noted that while news articles are more concerned with facts, satirical articles can chronicle the emotional response people might have to a situation.

"I think we're more trying to get at what people are feeling about something than what that thing is. And if the joke lands, it's because we expressed that well," Simon said.

The Noodle, which published in print for the first time last year, now publishes print editions around twice a semester and has an active website, as well as Facebook and Instagram pages. The group currently has 13 active members and is accepting applications.

The Noodle's adviser J Finley, a professor of American Studies and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, also recognized the importance of satire in times of controversy.

"Humor is always going to point to some of the deepest problems in our culture and our society, and satire cuts even deeper because it's always meant to expose and shame," she said. "Middlebury as an institution leans towards pushing some issues of power underneath the carpet, and satire doesn't let you off the hook for that."

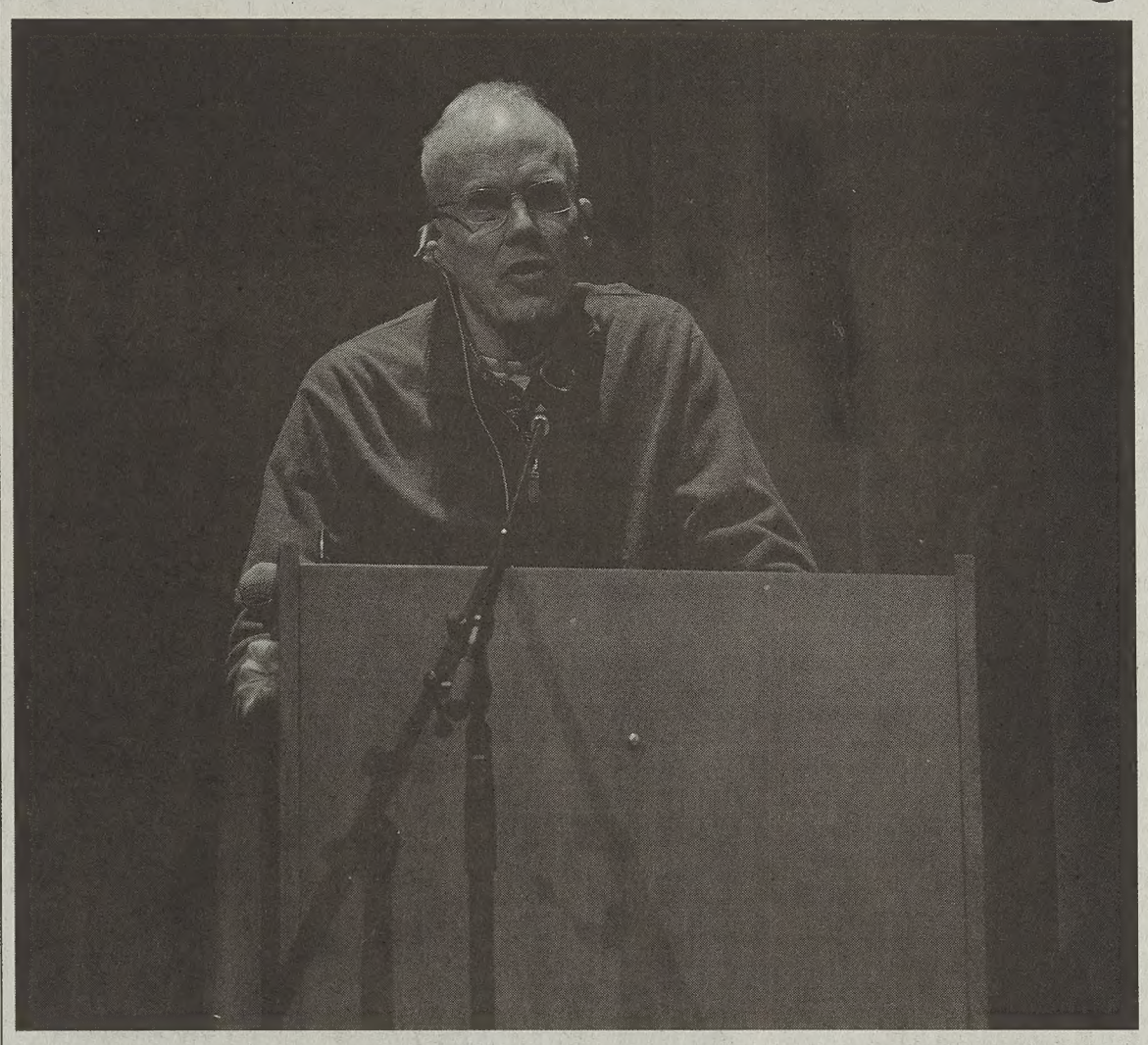
As The Noodle's faculty adviser, Finley won't give a final ruling when it comes to publishing a potentially contentious article. But she will look at it and sometimes send it to other faculty before giving her advice to the editorial board.

Last April, The Noodle was embroiled in controversey when it broke the story of former chemistry Professor Jeff Byers referencing Nazi gas chambers on an exam. Both the incident and the satirical article were condemned by the Community Bias Response Team (CBRT) in a school-wide email, which stated: "While satire can be an effective form of social critique, the article's light-handed references to and engagement with the Holocaust have caused additional harm."

In response, The Noodle published an article satirizing the CBRT. "Community Bias Response Team Gets Mad at Noodle For Making Them Do Their Job," read the headline.

This spring, The Noodle again finds itself positioned to take on heavy material. Quickly following the January 22 announcement, The Local Noodle released a story titled "Administration Places Bulk Order for Neck Braces in Preparation for Charles Murray's Return." Cronic estimates that this may now be The Noodle's most viewed piece.

"They're not perfect of course, but they're courageous," said Finley about the publication's staff. "It takes a lot of courage in moments like [Charles Murray] to not only address the issues but to find a way to get people engaged and thinking about what is at stake. And hopefully people laugh in the meantime too."



SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Bill McKibben, scholar-in-residence at Middlebury, introduced his longtime friend Naomi Klein at the Scott A. Margolin '99 lecture last Thursday. He was arrested last month in Washington D.C. while protesting Chase Bank's relationship with fossil fuels.

Bill McKibben takes a stand against Wall Street

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held by Chase and similar banks as a primary driver of the climate crisis in both The New Yorker piece and a New York Times op-ed he co-authored this January, .

"Chase is by far the biggest lender to the fossil fuel industry and they lend the most to all the most aggressive expansionary projects." McKibben told The Campus. Chase Bank has lent more than $195 billion to oil and gas companies over the last three years — more than the market value of BP oil — to fund projects such as oil drilling in the deep ocean and the Arctic, according to McKibben's piece in The New Yorker.

The January protest coincided with the last day of Jane Fonda's Fire Drill Fridays, weekly climate demonstrations in D.C. during which Fonda has repeatedly been arrested. "While Jane and Joaquin Phoenix and Martin Sheen were up on Capitol Hill, about 25 of us went into the nearest Chase branch and had a nice chat with the manager, and just sat down," McKibben said.

Fonda later led protesters down to the bank, where they rallied out front. Inside, McKibben said, the atmosphere was pleasant and low-key. "We were very, very clear to tell the people working there that we had not the slightest beef with them," he said. The goal of the sit-in was to reach the bank's higher-ups in New York — and to give people an idea of what the national day of action might look like in April.

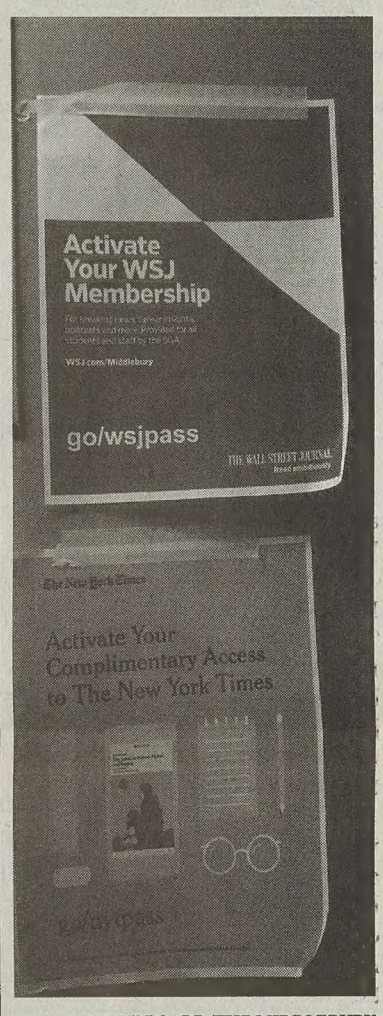
"We're hoping that there will be demonstrations at hundreds or thousands of bank branches across America," he said. Among the top targets are Chase, BlackRock and Liberty Mutual, listed on the Stop the Money Pipeline website as three of the world's biggest funders of fossil fuels.

Because there are no Chase branches in Vermont, McKibben expects that some Vermonters will travel out of state to protest. He said others will get together to cut up Chase credit cards, which include the Amazon credit card, the Southwest and United Airlines mileage cards, the Starbucks rewards card, and others.

Two of the most important things Middlebury students can do, McKibben said, are to let Chase know that they're not going to ever take out a Chase credit card, and to make it clear that they're not ever going to go to work at Chase.

McKibben cited Citi, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America as three other major funders of the fossil fuel industry, cautioning that people shouldn't just cut up their Chase credit card and get a Bank of America one. Better alternatives, he said, include fully-divested Amalgamated Bank on the East Coast, Beneficial State Bank on the West Coast, and Aspirations online.

"Most people don't have a coal mine in their backyard," McKibben said. "Most people don't have a pipeline that runs through their neighborhood. But a lot of people, tens of millions of people, have a credit card in their pocket from Chase and a pair of scissors in the kitchen drawer."



RILEY BOARD/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Signs advertise the return of digital subscriptions to the New York Times and Wall Street Journal, paid for by the SGA. Print copies, which were available in the past, will no longer be provided.

National news online subscriptions come back to Midd

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end of the two-year Wall Street Journal contract and three-year New York Times contract.

The two subscriptions are for digital versions of newspapers, and do not include additional features like crosswords or New York Times Cooking.

"We don't want to burden the entire student population with paying for the crosswords that some people want to do, whereas we could justify the cost of paying for the actual paper," Cho said.

Cho explained that SGA opted to subscribe to the Wall Street Journal and the Times in particular because they hoped the two papers would provide different content. He noted that some believe the Wall Street Journal has better business coverage, and that the oped sections of the two papers together provide a broader spectrum of voices.

"If we want people to be educated about the world and we are not providing that resource, then I wonder if we are being true to our word," Cho said.

Students partner with admissions office to expand outreach to new demographics

Continued from Page 1

energized and motivated by their infectious enthusiasm and engagement," Audet said. "I want this to always be a student-led initiative because that's where the energy comes from. Our office's support will maintain the longevity and historical knowledge of the program as students come and go, but this will become a student legacy."

Now, the program is made up of three coordinators— Gee, Dennis Miranda-Cruz '22 and Cynthia Chen '22 — and 18 student ambassadors. They hope that the program will double in size each year, eventually employing over 100 student ambassadors.

Off the beaten path

The Office of Admissions has about a dozen admissions counselors that each travel approximately six weeks out of the year, visiting four or five schools a day. They attempt to balance visiting schools that traditionally send applications and visiting schools from which they hope to see applications.

Still, many of the schools that the student ambassadors are now hoping to reach are often left out. To maximize each counselor's outreach, they often forgo visits to rural areas with few students.

New Student Ambassadors are trained to give information sessions about the college to prospective students, while adding personal touches to connect with high school students in their own hometowns.

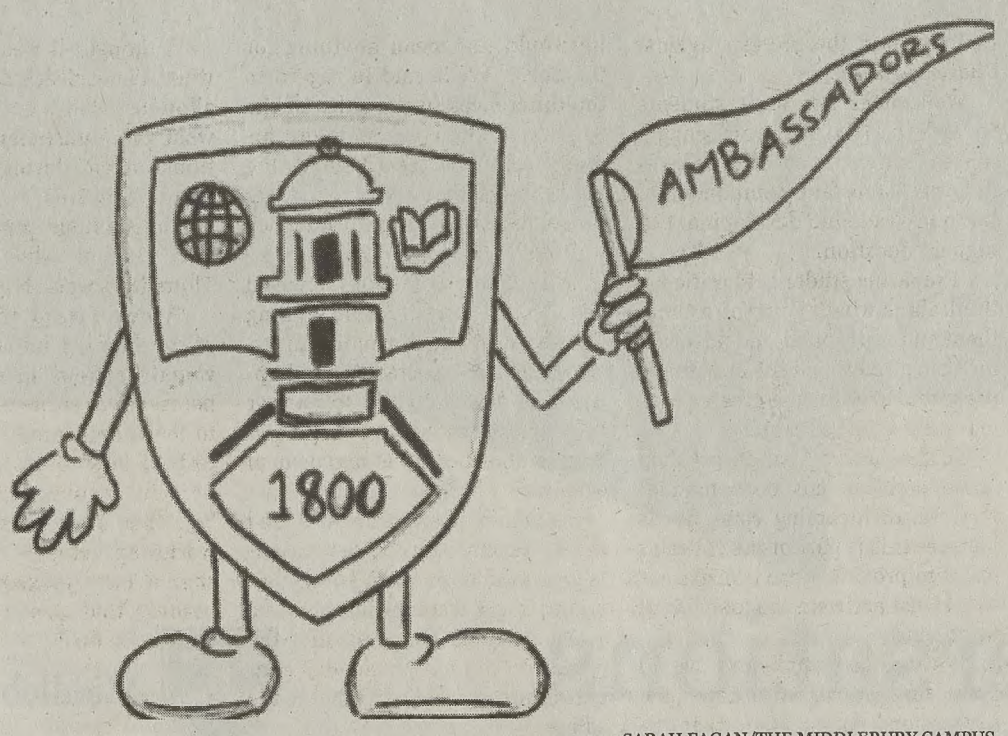
"We know that nothing works better than personal contact when it comes to helping a student see themselves at Middlebury," Audet said.

Student Ambassadors intend to do most of their outreach in the spring, which is the opposite of the fall travel schedule for the college's admissions counselors. Each high school on the list has never been visited by the college, and is in an area considered either high poverty or extremely rural.

Ambassadors get paid $20 per two-hour visit. Although visits are typically only one hour long, the extra hour accounts for potential travel time. The admissions office recommends that students travel to high schools no more than 30 miles away from their home addresses.

Gee estimated that student ambassadors have already completed 15–20 visits in 2020.

"We are reaching out to an entirely new demographic. For me personally, there were a lot of students I visited in Hawaii who ended up applying to Middlebury from high schools who had previously never had any applications to Middlebury," Gee said.



SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Sitting down with the new Director of Addison County Restorative Justice Services

By COURTNEY CRAWFORD
Contributing Writer

Jean Stone, Addison County Restorative Justice Services' (ACRJS) new executive director, hopes to recruit new volunteers to help with the organization's rehabilitative practices. Restorative justice, at its core, grapples with the concept of community and every citizen's role in it. As a process of collective reconciliation and rehabilitation, restorative justice emphasizes the interconnectedness in our society by providing a forum for legal offenders to acknowledge their crimes, as well as the effects of those crimes on victims and the community as a whole.

The Middlebury-based nonprofit organization committed to court diversion programs that provide a "Balanced Approach" model. Under the leadership of a board of trustees and a five-person staff, trained community volunteers help participants assume responsibility for their actions in ways that differ from more punitive forms of justice, according to Stone.

ACRJS aims to keep individuals out of the criminal justice system, especially juveniles. "An introduction to the criminal justice system [at a young age] desensitizes minors," Stone said. "Instead of keeping them from being involved, it normalizes crime."

Stone also said that ACRJS Department of Corrections contract allows the organization to work with people right out of incarceration and to try to help them establish lives beyond their convictions.

Stone became the executive director at ACRJS last December. "I have lived in this community for a long time," she said. "I grew up on a farm and worked with a family, helping their children through the Federal Head Start program." The Federal Head Start Program provides early-childhood education services to children of low-income households.

Stone then worked for 11 years with parents whose children were in custody so that those kids could later safely return to their families.

"We all impact the community in our own way," she said. "If we choose not to become involved, it can be negative, but it's possible to make positive changes."

Other ACRJS programs include the Safe Driving Program and the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program (YSASP). The Safe Driving Program counsels perpetrators of unsafe driving. Through activities and discussion, the program provides participants with opportunities to engage with the consequences of their actions on their communities.

YSASP is a confidential referral program designed for minors who are caught consuming, possessing or attempting to obtain alcohol or marijuana. In both cases, once participants complete the program, all legal penalties are dropped.

"We know that younger people's brains aren't fully developed, and yet we ask them to make informed decisions like adults," Stone said. "These kinds of preventative programs are so [criminal activity] doesn't impact their education."

In the future, ACRJS hopes to increase the capacity of review panels. As of now, members of the local retired population are volunteering the most.

While their expertise is absolutely needed, Stone said younger volunteers would be extremely valuable, as a large number of participants in ACRJS programs fall between the ages of 25 and 40.

Stone believes that, generally, more volunteers would be helpful to the services the organization provides.

"If we all took a piece to help," she said, "things would look different for our entire community."

For more information on ACRJS, and to join as a volunteer, visit acrjs.org.

COURTESY PHOTO
Jean Stone, Executive Director of ACRJS, assumed leadership in December 2019. Since joining the organization, she has focussed part of her work on garnering more volunteers.

Ben and Benjy's Local Lowdown

By BENJAMIN GLASS & BENJY RENTON
Senior Local Editor & Editor at Large

FEB 20

The Makery, open hours

In need of a sewing lesson? The Makery at Hannafords is open 5-9 p.m., teaching the basics of sewing. Drop-In fee is $7.50.

FEB 21

The Medicine Tribe, Live

The Medecine Tribe plays live at Notte this Friday at 9 p.m. For more information, visit allevents.in.

FEB 22

Fat Bike Group Ride

Join the Frog Hollow Bikes (FHB) crew on a 90-minute fat bike ride. Group starts at 8 a.m. at FHB's front door.

FEB 23

Vermont's Largest Snowball Fight

Join hundreds of other Vermonters at 2 p.m. in Burlington to hurl some snow. See Facebook event.

1619 and the Legacy That Built a Nation

BY NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES
Creator of the *New York Times*'s "The 1619 Project" and an award-winning investigative reporter covering civil rights and racial injustice for the *New York Times Magazine*.

Tuesday, February 25 ▪ 7:00 p.m.
Mead Chapel ▪ Open to the public

The event is one in a series on race and racism, and is sponsored by the Office of the President, MCAB, Black Studies, and the Critical Conversations program.

critical conversations
ADVANCING OPEN EXPRESSION AND INCLUSIVITY

Middlebury

Vt. youth turning to state mental health services in record numbers

Continued from Page 1

The BBF State Advisory Council formed an Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Task Force in 2019 to address the importance of mental wellbeing among Vermont children and families. In response to the notable increase in mental health service usage, both state and nationwide, the State Advisory Council started a conversation with Vermont families and spearheaded the report.

The 2020 report highlights the number of families with children under the age of nine who walk through the doors of Vermont mental health agencies. These families access crisis services and other forms of support, such as home-based therapy and case management. The study includes children in residential care, Vt. Dept. of Children and Family custody and specialized child care.

The increase in mental health service use does not reflect any particular cause. "It's hard to point to one [factor]," said Cheryle Wilcox, Interagency Planning Director at Vermont Department of Mental Health and BBF State Advisory Council co-chair. She said, however, that familial trauma and substance abuse are major drivers.

Another definite contributor is the ongoing opioid epidemic and its impact on rural Vermont families. The number of babies born with opioid dependencies hit a peak about five or six year ago, according to the Department of Mental Health. Now entering elementary school, these children face greater mental health challenges than some of their peers.

"I would not call [the results] an epidemic," Truzansky said. "We are trying to raise awareness that it's good for people to find support when they need it and we want those supports to be available."

"We don't want a crisis," she added. "We want to support kids and families so that when kids are adults, they can deal with whatever stressors that may come. We are investing in families so that kids are growing up in safe and supportive spaces in which they can build relationships."

Although the report's data does not indicate patients' socioeconomic status, both Truzansky and Wilcox agree that lower income families are at a higher risk of mental illness.

The two said that, especially in rural Vermont, a lack of resources, transportation and employment add to mental stress.

"When parents are struggling through issues, their basic needs are also challenged," Wilcox said.

BBF has case managers that help connect families to resources to relieve food and housing insecurity, in an effort to ease the stress on parents. "With young children, their caregiver is the person that's with them most of the time," Wilcox said. "Therefore, it's important for us and for everyone to support parents so that they have the capacity and support they need to be taking care of their children."

Healthcare accessibility is also challenged by Vermont's high cost of living and persisting decrease in population.

"There are a lot of vacancies in our community mental health agencies," Wilcox said. "I think there's this piece of young children who've experienced trauma, and then this issue of trying to recruit workforce and retain people."

Wilcox added that working in childcare is often a labor of love.

"Early care and learning and mental health is not a high paying field," she said. "That's been tough — to have [enough] people in place to support children when they need help."

Insurance is able to remove certain financial barriers to mental healthcare. Ninety-eight percent of children who access health service providers have their visits covered by insurance, the result of the federal mandate for child Medicaid.

Mental health agencies in Vermont accept Medicaid, as well as private insurance. "It's something we do really well in Vermont — making sure patients are insured," Wilcox said.

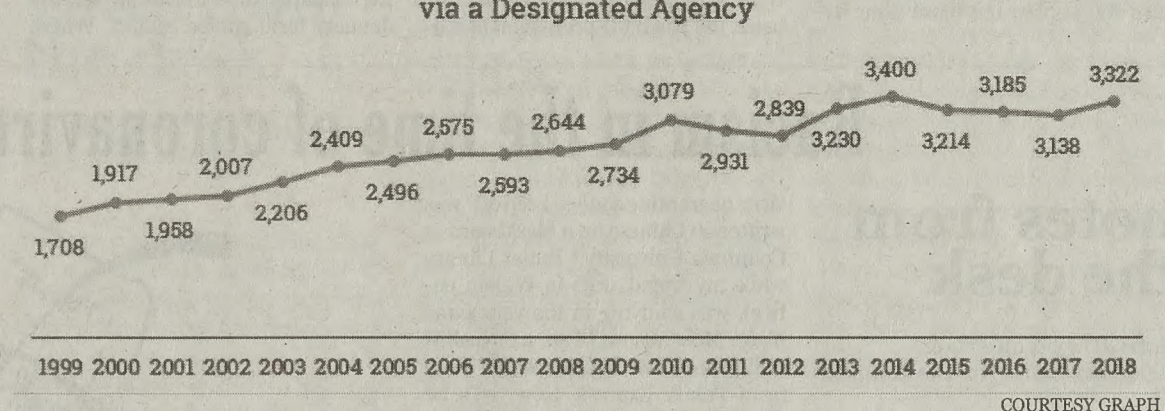
Currently, BBF works to elevate mental healthcare accessibility by coordinating with mental health agencies and early learning centers. In designated regions of Vermont, a BBF coordinator brings people together to address youth mental health on a local scale.

Within Addison County, BBF has worked with community mental health agencies, the Vermont Department of Health and other parent/child centers to launch an initiative called "Ok. You've Got This." Its mission is to foster youth resilience through public awareness and educational campaigns. "It's really about how we can make sure, with the challenges going on, that we instill hope and that people can bounce back from hard times," Wilcox said. "'Ok. You've Got This' is a nice way to say that there are challenges, but there are things you can do."

Efforts made by nonprofit organizations and public health agencies strengthen the availability of their resources. As young Vermont children and their families seek mental health services, they prevent depression, create stability and promote healthy development for generations to come. "We all go through hard times," Wilcox said. "[But] there are specific things parents can do to help their children."

COURTESY PHOTO

The Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury, which provides in-patient psychiatric care for children, adolescents and adults. Below, Page 7 of the BBF 2020 Report, which depicts the growing use of mental health services by children in Vermont over time.



COURTESY GRAPH

Middlebury's town meeting is on March 2. What should you expect?

By HATTIE LeFAVOUR
Local Editor

The town meeting, a Vermont tradition conceived earlier than the state itself, is fast approaching. Occurring annually in nearly every Vt. town, the meetings provide Vermonters a chance to congregate as a local community to deliberate and vote on budgets, election of town officials and civic issues. Middlebury's "floor meeting," or in-person gathering, will be held on Monday, March 2 at 7 p.m. at Middlebury Union High School. The following day — Tuesday, March 3 — Middlebury will host an "Australian ballot," or paper vote, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The event will coincide with the Vermont presidential primary.

The floor meeting, which gives Vermonters a chance to adopt proposed articles, initiate discussions and propose amendments in person, leaves room for more nuance than a yes-or-no vote like the Australian ballot.

Vermonters have the legal right to take off from work or school to attend, and while only registered voters may deliberate and vote in the Australian ballot, non-voters are welcome to attend as well. This year, the floor meeting will address issues such as the fiscal budget for the upcoming year; water system improvements; and allocation of funds to civic projects, including new police equipment and the maintenance of the Cross Street Bridge.

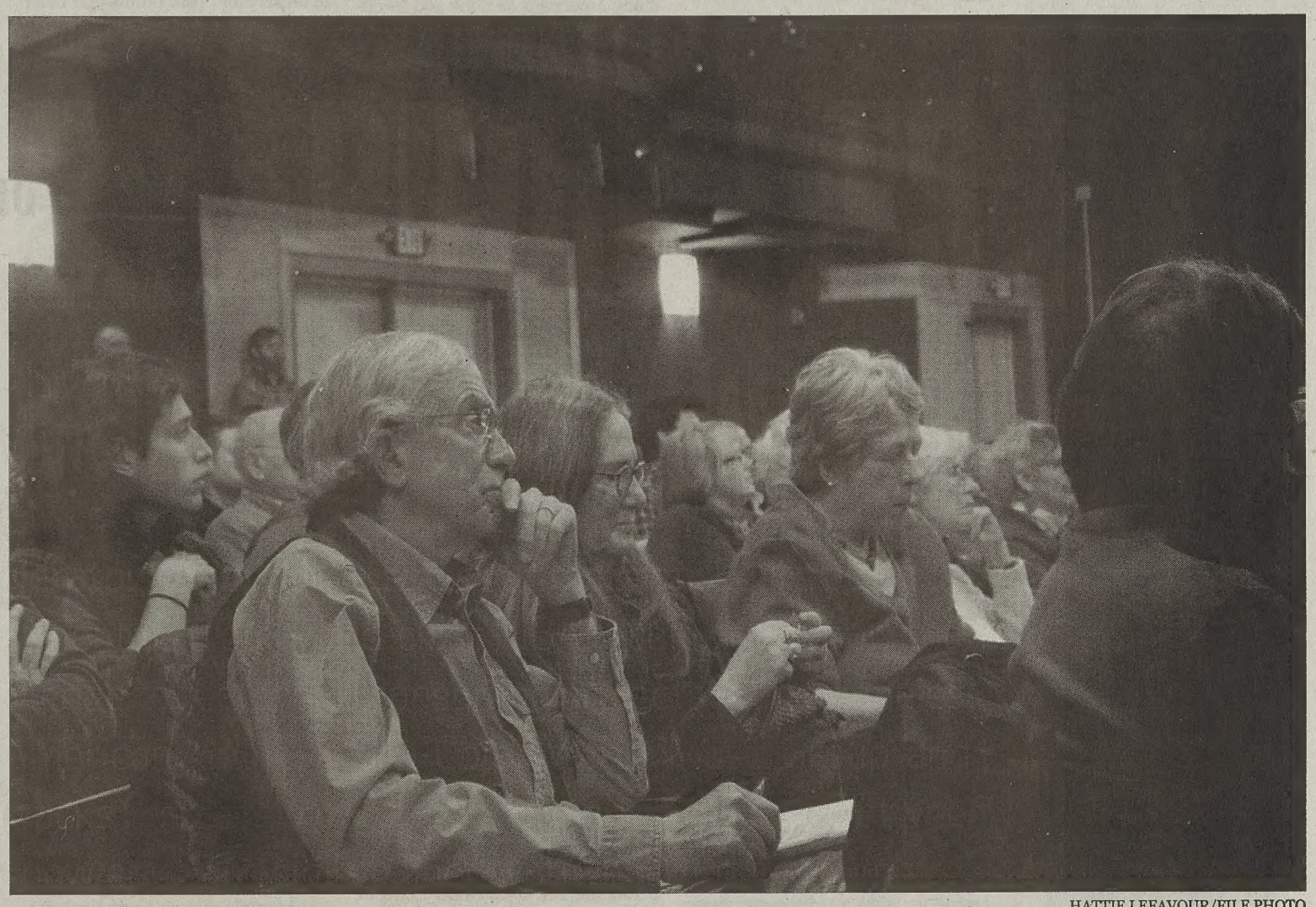
The Australian ballot, which is cast separately from the floor meeting, will address topics such as the repair of flood walls, maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities and allocation of funds to nonprofits. Nonprofits include the Turning Point Center of Addison County, which works to combat substance abuse, and the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, which provides housing, food and fuel security to Vermonters living below the poverty line. The Australian ballot will also allow residents to elect local officials, including the seven members of the Middlebury Selectboard, who chair the annual floor meetings, and town clerk, treasurer and auditor, among others.

Middlebury's floor meeting was bittersweet last year as former Governor Jim Douglas stepped down from his 33-year stint as moderator. The appreciation for his service was palpable. Selectboard Vice Chair Nick Artim spoke warmly of the retiring moderator and said that Douglas will be missed for "his calm demeanor, his dry sense of humor and his amazing ability to know and remember the names of almost everyone in the audience." Although the position of moderator is voted on each year, this year's moderator is expected to be Former Middlebury Selectwoman Susan Shashok, whom Douglas endorsed as a replacement.

Although the tradition of town meetings is considered a mainstay of local Vermont politics, turnout has dwindled in recent years. Many worry that as fewer people attend, more towns will begin opting for Australian ballots only, foregoing floor meetings altogether. In a statement to the Addison Independent last year, Douglas expressed these concerns himself.

"If we have a model and a place where you can learn to be civil and respectful within your own community, that broadens out into the wider culture and informs our national discourse," he told the paper. "I think we are losing that."

Although the Australian ballot typically sees higher voter turnout than the floor meetings, each is dependent on factors such as the issues at hand, weather and timing. This year, the Australian ballot falls on Super Tuesday, a day that is host to Vermont's and many other states' presidential primaries. The impetus to go to the polls may increase this year's Australian ballot turnout.



HATTIE LEFAVOUR/FILE PHOTO

The Middlebury "floor meeting" will take place on Monday, March 2, preceding the "Australian ballot" on March 3. Some community members have brought attention to the declining attendance at the annual floor meetings, weighing ballot-voting more heavily than the older form of live deliberation.

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THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Middlebury, magnified: reframing "J-Term play term"

editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus editorial board.

Touring Middlebury, prospective students are told to be excited about J-term. "January is a chance to take a break," we've heard tour guides explain, "to try things that are out of your comfort zone, or take on independent projects." A similar narrative dominates once students actually get to campus; all throughout fall, new Midd Kids listen as upperclassmen float potential party themes for "J-term, play term" or deliberate over Vermont ski-pass purchases. They listen, too, as professors and club leaders allude to exciting J-term opportunities — classes where you make a movie rather than sit a final exam, say, or workshops that give you a chance to *finally* try bread-baking.

In light of these kinds of conversations, the average first year seems fairly justified in expecting the four weeks following winter break to rank among the best of their college experience. And for a lot of Middlebury students, this holds true: They walk out of J-term smiling beneath a fresh, freckly goggles tan, having picked up some extra sleep, an easy A and a couple of Instagram posts along the way.

For others, though, the return to spring semester is cause for relief. In fact, for a lot of us, the term "J-Term, play-term" carries with it an alienating, even cruel irony. Not only are the socioeconomic divisions and mental health stressors that make being at Middlebury difficult during regular term still at play, but those same dynamics are magnified, brought into sharp relief by cold weather, high expectations and a reduced class schedule. Still, because J-Term has been so successfully branded as a uniquely fulfilling social and academic experience, students often feel uncomfortable talking about January as anything less than a four week-long party.

As a board, we're pretty fed up with this particular narrative. To be clear: A lot of us love J-Term, and valued our experiences last month as much as any we've had throughout college. Still, we believe it's important to acknowledge and talk about the ways that, for a significant part of the Middlebury community, January is a month to be endured, not celebrated.

SARAH FAGAN

For one, the classic J-Term schedule-fillers — skiing, going to dinner, taking weekend trips to Montreal — do not run cheap, which can intensify existing socio-economic divisions within the student body. We acknowledge that those are only some of the many ways students pack their snowy January days, and that there are plenty of activities that don't break the bank. But when the predominant narrative is that everyone is out "shredding," it can be profoundly isolating. Off-campus, too, these socioeconomic disparities can come into play — CCI grants are not always sufficient for covering the costs of New York City internships or other for-credit opportunities.

J-Term also takes a serious toll on a lot of students' mental health. As though cold weather and a lack of daylight wasn't enough, a reduced class schedule often strips students of structure in their day-to-day lives. With less to do than usual, many retreat into their dorm rooms, alone. And, because people might assume they're off skiing (or having other wintery, Vermont-based adventures), friends are often less likely to check up on them.

Some students find J-Term stressful in an entirely different way. While students often talk about January courses as "easy A"s, or more fun and less academically rigorous than normal Middlebury courses, this isn't always the case. Really, there's a striking disparity in workload across the January term course catalog. Where some students find themselves virtually flooded with free time, unfettered by homework, others (taking, say, intro languages course or finishing up their theses) spend much of the month in the library — being asked, all the while, why they aren't off with their friends partying. Similarly, many clubs are markedly more active in January, working off of the assumption that members have little else to do. These kinds of disparity in experience only contribute to what can be, for some students, the most demanding month of the year.

And so J-Term isn't always a "chance for a break," or a fun and free time to pursue "things out of your comfort zone." To make matters worse, students who struggle during January typically often feel uncomfortable sharing experiences that run contrary to the powerful narratives that push J-Term as pure, unadulterated fun.

To that end, we're hoping to facilitate more nuanced discussions about J-Term, both to manage expectations and to let students know they aren't alone in struggling. As part of our effort to create a realistic, constructive conversation around J-Term, we invite you to share your own experiences in the form of op-eds — whether that be the ways in which you find the month challenging, or coping mechanisms for sad, snowy days.

It's OK if you spent most of last month looking forward to Feb break. You're certainly not the only one.

Send your op-eds — 800 words — and letters to the editor — 200 words — to campus@middlebury.edu.

Racism in the time of coronavirus

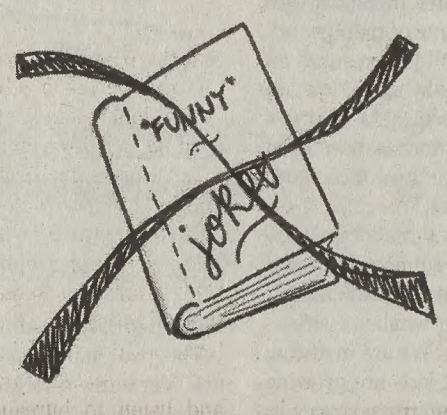
notes from the desk

***Rain Ji '23** is an Arts & Academics editor for The Campus.*

I've never been too popular anywhere. But recently, more people have — as some like to call it — *slid into my DMs* to send me funny memes. What's the secret to my newfound social status? The coronavirus. A virus which has inspired so many derogatory and inappropriate memes that people on and off Middlebury's campus can't resist sharing a moment of laughter with their dearest Chinese friend: me.

I'm no stranger to racism. After all, it is my fifth year living in the United States. However, the amount of blatant xenophobia emerged since the outbreak is simply impossible for me to process. Besides the number of derogatory jokes I've heard this week alone, my friends all over the world have been impacted in different shapes or forms. Jane, who is French-born Chinese, had her Airbnb reservation canceled in Switzerland simply because her host saw her profile picture. Fourteen days ago, "Wuhan virus quarantine zone — keep off" was written in Chinese on a blackboard at Columbia University's Butler Library while my friend, Jojo (a Wuhan native), was studying in the very same place. Most absurd of all, a SiriusXM radio show host steered people away from Panda Express. Now, let's be clear: Panda Express has never been and will never become authentic Chinese food. Next time a flu breaks out in Italy, you should cancel your Green Peppers order. You never know.

Now that I've sufficiently trashed Panda Express (and potentially contributed to a decline in pizza consumption), let's talk about why these memes and jokes are especially offensive. Back in the late 19th century, white labor unions in the U.S. promulgated the idea that Chinese bodies were disease carriers. In particular, they used this kind of xenophobic rhetoric to promote nativist fears of Asian migration. And their agenda worked: the 47th U.S. Congress passed the infamous 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, prohibiting immigration of Chinese workers. Almost 120 years ago, Chinese were perceived by many Americans as filthy and revolting. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, similar disturbing attitudes of apathy, discrimination and ridicule can be observed across the U.S., and beyond. Fashion goes in cycles; so, it seems, does racism.



SARAH FAGAN

Racism under the disguise of humor is still racism. People only feel comfortable laughing at xenophobic coronavirus memes because of intrinsic power dynamics stemming back hundreds of years. It is okay to make fun of the Chinese for eating revolting food, but obviously casu cundídu is a delicacy.

Funny or harmless though they may seem, these jokes inflict emotional anxiety and pain on me and other members of the Middlebury community. When I'm hit with a corona beer joke or meme, I don't laugh, or think of fun Saturday party scenes; instead, faces of my family, friends and loved ones flood me all at once. My anxiety spikes every morning as I check my phone for the latest updates on the number of people affected. Often, these numbers represent names to me. They are tangible and all-too real.

I urge the Middlebury College community to refrain from and stand up against offensive jokes targeted at marginalized groups. Nothing too dramatic (no need to "cancel" anyone just because they send you an inappropriate meme). Simply let them know what's problematic and, if you can, why.

Starting this week, I pray for less social media popularity.

The Middlebury Independent: Koch or woke?

op-ed

***Ellis Glickman '22** is the editor in chief of The Middlebury Independent.*

Last weekend was our spring club fair. There, armed with Reese's and Kit-Kats, Quinn Boyle '21 and I hawked our booth alongside dozens of students converged in Wilson Hall (if they were lucky) and the forgotten nooks of downstairs Crossroads (if they weren't).

I'm editor-in-chief of The Middlebury Independent; Quinn's executive editor and co-founder. I won't play coy: I'm aware of the sentiment against us and should have known our assigned booth besides The Campus and Disorient Midd would cause tension. But it escalated when someone from Disorient shoved a note that said "KOCH FUNDED" at someone joining our email list. Another stood beside us with "go/disorient" taped over her mouth, their site which lists The Independent as a current threat to justice at Middlebury. At one point, I glanced up to see a member of Disorient taking a photo of me. When I turned around, two others quickly hid the "KOCH FUNDED" sign they had held above my head.

I didn't say anything — I'm far too socially awkward for that — but here is my response ... as well as a perfect example of why The Independent exists in the first place.

The Middlebury Independent was founded after the controversies of the chemistry test question and Legutko incidents last spring and, specifically, the barrage of opinion pieces that flooded The Campus. No one's ever doubted MiddKids' passion, and we recognized a demand for a specifically written form of dialogue around current events, activism and politics: not everyone has the lungs for debate club.

SARAH FAGAN

Those same incidents demonstrated that when controversy arises, the reliability of on-campus funding wanes. The SGA publicly considered defunding The Local Noodle, and we didn't want our paper so susceptible to the whims of funders. We chose the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), which, though known for conservative biases, promised in our contract that it "will exercise no control or influence over the editorial comments of [The Independent], nor review, prior to publication, any of the contents." It seemed settled.

Oh boy, it wasn't.

I truly couldn't have anticipated the way things transpired. Disorient Midd, among others, trampled our message and denounced The Independent as "a space for conservative white men on campus to complain about their voicelessness." All three of us on the editorial board are liberal Democrats, and two are women. All three support climate activism, racial equality, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, etc: to think we'd compromise these creeds because the ISI told us to is an insult to our integrity and intelligence.

We knew using the ISI would cause animosity, and we knew the shaming culture that exists on campus. What we didn't anticipate was such an organized assault of disinformation. Our content is non-ideological: a pro-life Democrat's views on abortion, Middlebury's illiberalism and an Asian student's experience with racism have been just some topics writers have explored in their pieces. But somehow the dominant narrative is that oil barons are cutting us checks.

For the record, ISI hasn't accepted Koch money since 2004, per a SourceWatch report. And yet, last week, The Campus published an op-ed whose first line read, "Did you know an on-campus organization accepts money from fossil fuel billionaires?"; Disorient identifies us as "a student-run, Koch-funded 'newspaper' [that] appears on campus to give a voice to the apparently voiceless straight males at Middlebury."; and this fall, a student posted on the meme page our advertisement for, "Race or Class? An Affirmative Action Debate" saying, "Drop this bullshit that people of color are less deserving of access to higher education than white people" (the post has since been removed). The central question of that debate was how to better aid disadvantaged minority students. The activists who have targeted us distort information to bully and shame, all while protesting what they see as the platforming of unsubstantiated, divisive ideas and speakers. It is a recurring theme at Middlebury.

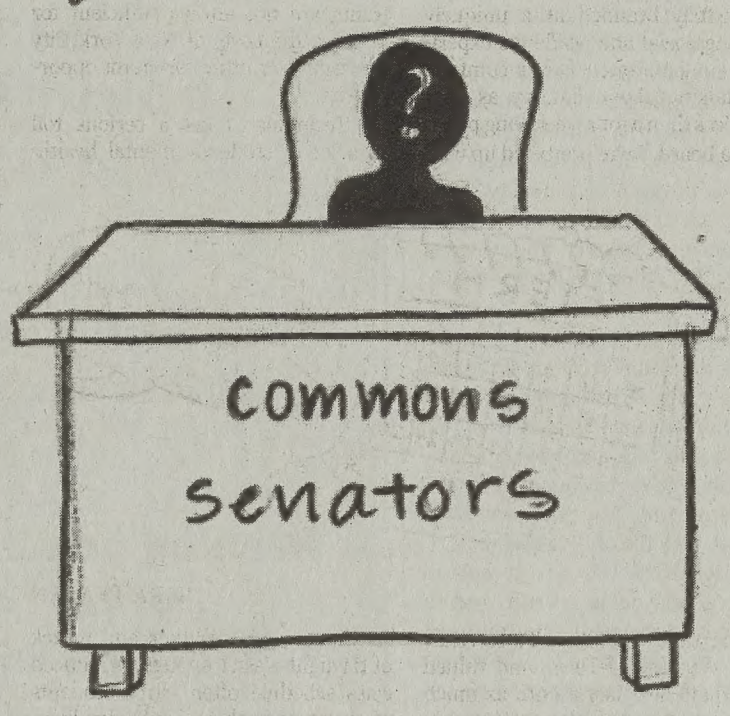
Disorient Midd's treatment of me at the club fair only occurred once Quinn stepped away. When I left her alone, the situation repeated itself. Members of Disorient held signs behind her while she pitched and took multiple photos that they then shared. She confronted them, listing the sources of funding for The Independent, as well as the scrutinized Open Campus Initiative and Alexander Hamilton Forum. None use Koch money. She asked if anyone from the go/disorient page would meet to discuss their perspectives and was told they would only communicate via email. We still don't know who runs Disorient. I'm just going to say it: this is bullying. They attempted to shame and silence us ... and it worked. Quinn packed our booth and left before the fair ended. I would have, too.

We know their issue with us isn't actually about "dark money" infiltrating Middlebury. It's about controlling information and deciding what can be shared. It's about wanting the world to be a certain way and ignoring, rather than confronting, the fear that it's not. I'm sick of the campaigns, fact-less proliferations and, most of all, blind acceptance that students you eat with and live with, study with and sleep with, are really just Koch-funded propaganda machines furthering climate denial and racial oppression. Give us some credit: we're harder to buy than that.

***Ellis Glickman** is a member of the class of 2022 and is The Middlebury Indepdendent's editor in chief.*

***Quinn Boyle '21** contributed to this piece.*

Thoughts on the SGA's new look



SARAH FAGAN

notes from the desk

Ariadne Will '22 is a Local editor for The Campus.

As the student body will soon vote on whether to keep the five SGA commons senator seats, I would like to argue in favor of these representative positions.

I will begin by addressing the obvious: there is, of course, the fact that there will no longer be any *commons* for commons senators to represent come the fall of 2020. There have, however, been proposed alternatives to the position of common senator. One I quite like is the prospect of assigning representatives to each dean, an idea that was proposed at the last SGA senate meeting of J-Term. This would still eliminate one of the current positions — there will only be four deans come fall — but would maintain the spirit and character of the commons senator seats. (Because a new iteration of the commons senator may reflect the position currently in place, I will refer in this article to these future positions as they are currently known – as commons senators.)

My belief that these representative positions should remain is directly tied to my experience with my own commons senator. Wonnacott Senator Myles Maxie '22 is someone who cares deeply, both about the SGA and about communicating with his constituency. When I hear from my sophomore senators, they send emails that tell me they know I don't like long emails. Instead of serving as a considerate introduction to their email, however, this statement usually takes up about a third of the email and makes me want to stop reading it, which I often do. Maxie, on the other hand, is the only SGA representative I hear from in a way that feels meaningful and important. Unlike the lists of bullet points I receive from other representatives, Maxie takes the time to tell me when his office hours are, to dissect the decisions made by SGA, and to explain the bills and legislation that are being discussed. I do not know how other commons senators interact with their constituents, but as a member of Wonnacott Commons, I find the information Maxie shares with me valuable and informative. I would be sad to see that dialogue disappear.

I fear that the elimination of commons senator positions will, furthermore, impact the transparency of the institution, an institution that is already obscure in its processes. Take, for instance, the absence of meeting minutes on SGA's website. Near the end of last semester, Maxie sent out an email to the members of Wonnacott Commons with the minutes from fall meetings attached. Those are minutes that may not have been made accessible otherwise, and Maxie told me later that he received backlash for sharing those minutes — minutes that should be public information. While those minutes are now available on the SGA website, no minutes after November 17 are available to the public. If Maxie were not a member of SGA, a part of me wonders if even *those* minutes would be available to the public.

While I have heard the argument that the position of commons senator may be taken advantage of by people looking to soothe their egos (and so, by extension, the position is not worth much), I would like to point out that it would be a huge undertaking to run for a position for the sole purpose of adopting its modest title. "Commons senator" is a title that often requires thankless effort: it is a position that stipulates carving out time on Sunday afternoons to sit and listen to bureaucratic discussions, as well as finding time to write emails to people who may never read them. I therefore do not believe that people interested in running for the position of commons senator are people who are eager to have a fancy title. Besides, if I were not someone who attended Middlebury, I would likely furrow my brow if my friend told me they were a commons senator – "What would that even entail?" I would ask.

Because it is such a humble title, the position of commons senator does not attract people who are interested only in self-promotion. Instead, it allows people who are genuinely interested in SGA to become involved in student government without having to brave what often become popularity contests associated with positions like class senate seats or senior positions such as that of the president. This is because there is lower interest in the common senator positions, so they have in the past been won by default — this was Maxie's case in the election last spring. The disinterest in serving in these positions, I believe, may be related to the obscurity of their titles, which are connected to a system that did not fulfill its goal in connecting students within each commons. Though the noncompetitive nature of these positions has been used to support their elimination, I believe that this allows people a starting point from which to gain SGA experience.

Lastly, as commons senator positions are often held by underclassmen (four of this year's five commons senators are sophomores — the fifth is a junior), there is often increased incentive for commons senators to initiate change, as they will actually see the impact of their terms on SGA during their years as upperclassmen.

I recognize that these five positions reside within a much larger and intensely bureaucratic body. Even so, it strikes me as not only pointless, but potentially harmful to eliminate these positions, positions that encourage transparency, dialogue and change.

In defense of the Hamilton Forum

op-ed

Akhila Roy '20, Joey Lyons '21, Quinn Boyle '21.5, Max Taxman '22, Maddy Stutt '21.5 and Rati Saini '22, are 2019–20 Alexander Hamilton Forum fellows.

As students who have been actively involved in and have benefited from Alexander Hamilton Forum lectures, debates and dialogues, we write to set the record straight and defend deliberating on the Green New Deal.

First, we believe the Hamilton Forum is the most politically and philosophically diverse program on campus, both in terms of the speakers it hosts and the students involved. Since its inception in 2018, the Hamilton Forum has hosted the world's leading Marxist economist, Richard Wolff; the editor of the foremost magazine of the American Left, Michael Kazin; a lion of the civil libertarian left and the first female president of the ACLU, Nadine Strossen; and Harvard professor and clerk for Justice Thurgood Marshall, Randall Kennedy. The Hamilton Forum has also hosted several speakers on the political right, like New York Times columnist Ross Douthat, as well as speakers from the political center, such as former Clinton domestic policy advisor William A. Galston.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, the Hamilton Forum will host Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow Oren Cass and economist Robert Pollin, the latter of whom has actually designed Green New Deals for states like New York and Washington. This political diversity is not a bug, but rather the most impressive and beneficial feature of the Hamilton Forum.

In a recent op-ed entitled "We don't need a Koch sponsored Green New Deal," two students wrote that debates like the one happening this Thursday challenge "progressive ideals." "The speakers don't have to disprove every argument as long as they can plant doubts in our heads," the authors wrote. "By hosting the debate, the organizers of the forum choose which questions to ask, therefore reinforcing and normalizing discourses that question climate activism."

To us, this sounds like education. We think that challenging ideals, raising doubts and normalizing questioning is what good educators do. Shouldn't we "normalize" the questioning of all political viewpoints, including both climate activism and opposition to climate activism? In fact, this would make a good, aspirational motto for our campus. "Middlebury College: Normalizing questioning since 1800." Put it on the stationery, sweatshirts and key chains.

It is also puzzling that someone would suggest that the Hamilton Forum cherry-picks "questions to ask." Does anyone really believe that it is the Hamilton Forum that determined the Green New Deal should be a topic of public and academic debate in America in 2020? It is important to discuss the hotly debated issues of our day, and we certainly believe that the Green New Deal is one of them. Also, as anyone who has attended Hamilton Forum events knows, the hosts leave a long amount of time for unfiltered student questions, and those questions come from students of every persuasion. Afterwards, speakers stay behind to continue discussion over dinner, which are some of the best out-of-the-classroom intellectual experiences we have had here at Middlebury.

Some maintain that the Hamilton Forum takes direction from outside sources. This is demonstrably false. As the list above indicates, no foundation or organization could possibly see the Hamilton Forum as its mouthpiece because the diversity of speech is so vast. You would need to be a Marxist, populist, libertarian, nationalist, neoliberal, socialist, anti-traditionalist, Catholic, anti-populist, traditionalist and centrist to see the Hamilton Forum as your mouthpiece. We have never met any such individual.

The Hamilton Forum receives grants from external foundations just like many other programs on campus, and it operates with complete academic independence, as is evident in what we have said above. Additionally, anyone who wonders whether the Hamilton Forum's director — Political Science Professor Keegan Callanan — is susceptible to political pressure should review his record of standing on principle and speaking his mind, even as a non-tenured professor back in 2017.

Those who speak of "Koch funding" for the Hamilton Forum leave out a key factual detail. The Hamilton Forum's grant from the Institute for Humane Studies is funded by the Clifford S. Asness Family Foundation's Free Speech and Open Inquiry Program, with no grant funds from the Koch family. Why do the editorialists never mention this fact? Could it be that they realize it may "put doubts in our heads" about their narrative?

The broader principle regarding gifts and grants to Middlebury is that there should be no political purity test. A purity test barring donations on the basis of a donor's political views would be out-of-step with Middlebury's stated commitment to political diversity. It would be discriminatory. It would be a great way to alienate a substantial portion of the alumni donor base. Middlebury should no more discriminate on the basis of political viewpoint in its acceptance of grants and gifts than it discriminates in its admissions or (let's hope) in hiring new professors.

Middlebury is not a political campaign. We are a learning community, and we are here to ask important questions together, to be challenged, and to challenge ourselves.

If you would like to attend Hamilton Forum events and dinners, you can sign up at go/joinAHF.

SLG corner: Provost Jeff Cason

SLG corner

Jeff Cason is the Provost and Edward C. Knox Professor of International Studies and Political Science.

I love working at Middlebury. I've been here 26 years, and have seen a lot of changes over that time. I was involved in the original creation of what was then the International Studies major in the mid-1990s, and have always appreciated Middlebury's global reach. Now, as Middlebury's chief academic officer, I occupy a unique position from which to observe and appreciate Middlebury's vast array of academic offerings that span the globe. I also have the good fortune to be charged with transforming the Envisioning Middlebury strategic framework into action.

Through the Envisioning Middlebury process, we clearly articulated our mission and vision to guide us in developing the institution's direction and priorities. The world is evolving, demographics are shifting and students and their learning styles are changing. The Envisioning Middlebury strategic framework acknowledges those changes and provides the guideposts for Middlebury to sit at the forefront of innovation in the liberal arts.

As an institution, we discovered (or, perhaps more accurately, rediscovered) that Middlebury has an incredible variety of pedagogies, of ways of learning, and ways of knowing. Our exceptional faculty at the undergraduate college, the Language Schools, our institute in Monterey, the Bread Loaf School of English, the School of the Environment and the Schools Abroad provide this diversity of pedagogies. Among liberal arts colleges, we are unique in the opportunities we offer our students.

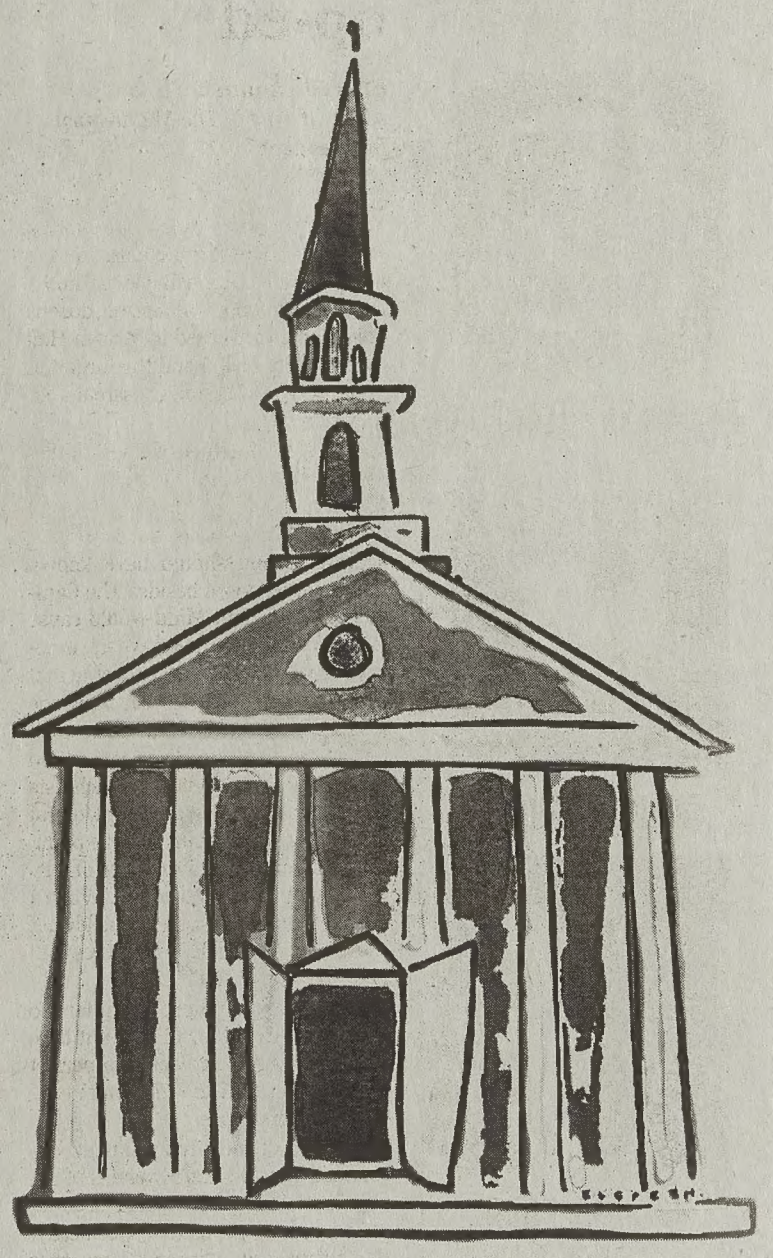
In particular, the Envisioning Middlebury process highlighted our unique global network, a network that I experience and appreciate every day. One of our major goals is to open pathways throughout this very network, so that students can experience firsthand the diversity of our pedagogy, the benefits of place-based learning and the value of intercultural competence. We already know how this works for students at our Schools Abroad, who encounter different cultures and educational systems around the world with the guidance of faculty and staff colleagues at our various sites. But this can expand even further. We can treat our institute in Monterey as, in effect, another site for our students to study and take full advantage of the many areas where the Institute excels.

To this end, last fall, we started a program in non-proliferation and terrorism studies at the institute that a number of undergraduates have taken advantage of. We are also now in the early planning phase to create a semester away in Monterey for undergraduates that focuses on environmental issues specific to the Monterey peninsula and California. Students will learn from the expert faculty at the institute, and the knowledge and skills they learn from this semester will help prepare them to address one of the world's most challenging problems: climate change. Addressing such global challenges is core to Middlebury's mission.

In addition to using our impressive variety of places and expertise, we can also cross-pollinate our pedagogies to enhance student learning. The Beyond the Page project represents an example of such cross-pollination. For years, theater arts have been a significant component of teaching and learning at the Bread Loaf School of English. Theater arts promote intellectual risk-taking and help build trust in our learning community at Bread Loaf. The Beyond the Page project will bring the Bread Loaf pedagogy to the undergraduate college through a partnership with college faculty and students. We know that this particular kind of teaching and learning is effective at Bread Loaf, and if pedagogy works well in one place, we should build on this throughout the institution.

To accomplish these and other goals, I work closely with my colleagues on the Provost's Academic Council: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Sujata Moorti , Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Institute Jeff Dayton-Johnson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Language Schools Steve Snyder, and Dean of International Programs Carlos Velez. Together, we form the core academic leadership of Middlebury, and are currently working to further the goals of Envisioning Middlebury. In my office's recent call for special funding proposals, we outlined our priorities as: strengthening the global network of Middlebury programs through collaboration and partnership, enhancing digital fluency and critical engagement, building learning communities of faculty and students, and promoting our Energy 2028 goals. Each of these priorities reflects our strategic framework. We are enthused and energized by the submissions we have received thus far and we look forward to watching and guiding these projects to advance Middlebury's strategic vision.

This is exciting work. It's why I love doing what I do.



ELLIE EBERLEE

Empty bookstore shelves make room for Amazon

When the Middlebury College Bookstore stopped stocking physical books in 2018 — some say the ensuing collective groan still echoes in the hills — a large part of its rationale was students' increasing use of Amazon. As a result, the bookstore replaced its concrete, in-person services with an online supplier called MBS Direct; Amazon orders swelled. While students have always scrambled to get their school books in time for the start of classes each semester, the Middlebury College Bookstore once provided the most convenient on-the-spot option that guaranteed timely access. By removing this source, the college has created space for Amazon's fast delivery and low prices to occupy an even greater portion of schoolbook sales than it once did. Whereas students once used Amazon in take-as-needed doses, the college has now essentially written the campus an open prescription to mainline it, leaving the hazardous side effects to fall on the book industry.

Many already revile Amazon for its laundry list of legal and ethical vices, though few are aware that the company had its not-so-humble beginning in book sales. CEO Jeff Bezos chose books as a jumping-off point because they were a uniquely exploitable commodity due to vast variety, worldwide demand and low unit price. The company has been dealing despotic blows to publishing houses and their authors ever since. After significantly expanding its merchandise, Amazon now relies on book sales for just a sliver of its revenue. However, the website is responsible for more than half of all books sold worldwide. So, while Amazon doesn't rely on books, the company enjoys unparalleled leverage over book sales, including the ability to manipulate publishing houses and authors and abuse supply chains.

An example might help. As a student studying English and American literature and political science, I was required to order a total of 16 books for the spring semester — mostly novels and nonfiction titles published by single authors through conventional publishing houses. One item on my list is "Caucasia" by Danzy Senna, a phenomenal contemporary novel published in 1999 by Riverhead books, an imprint of Penguin Random House. A used copy, ordered through MBS Direct, costs $12; a brand-new copy of the same edition costs $5.88 from Amazon via a third-party supplier.

On paper, ordering "Caucasia" in better condition for half the price may seem like a no-brainer. But what does "third-party supplier" mean? Amazon intentionally leaves the answer murky. Oftentimes, these books are promotional copies circulated without permission; others are simply counterfeited. One thing that every purchase of a book from a third-party supplier has in common is that the publisher and author do not see a single penny of profit. Despite countless complaints, Amazon has excused itself from the responsibility of vetting these sources for such infractions, claiming that it is the suppliers' responsibility to "ensure that [their] content doesn't violate laws or copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity or other rights."

Beyond the problem of third-party suppliers, the scope of Amazon's business model allows it to routinely take intentional losses in book sales, often pricing books lower than the wholesale price it paid the publisher and making up for the profits elsewhere. The company then uses the sheer quantity of customers to strongarm publishing companies into agreeing to disadvantageous wholesale and royalty contracts. A notable example is a dispute between Amazon and major publishing house Hachette that occurred in 2014, during which Amazon raised listed prices of Hachette books and delayed delivery times by weeks — all the while advertising cheaper and faster-shipping books from other houses — to injure Hachette's sales until the house was willing to renegotiate.

Publishing houses rely on the revenue generated by big-selling titles. In turn, these revenues provide publishers room to experiment with content, diversify their repertoires, take on new authors and publish the higher-quality, medium-to-low-selling content. These are the works that often win prestigious awards like the Pulitzer, Booker and Nobel Prize in Literature (and that we are often assigned at Middlebury). When Amazon uses its leverage to skimp publishing houses on profits or sells new copies from third-party suppliers, not only are these houses less able to produce high-quality, wide-ranging content, but new and diverse authors are dissuaded from entering the field at all due to lower financial rewards.

I am aware that, for many students, the cheapest option is the only viable option. Whether the bookstore is online or on campus, Amazon often fills this role, and I do not intend to shame students who use it for this purpose in any way. The problem is that, though the old Middlebury College Bookstore was not necessarily the most affordable, it was frequently the most convenient. By transitioning to an online supplier, the college makes room for Amazon to occupy this role as well. Thus, in the wake of the bookstore's digitization, the student pivot to Amazon is unfortunately reasonable, as it is often the only service that can deliver books as quickly and cheaply as required by Middlebury's quick-moving academic calendar and rigorous homework schedule — in one of my literature classes, for instance, my professor told students not to bother attending class until they have the book in hand.

By clearing the bookstore's shelves and ushering students to the internet, Middlebury has raised a de facto white flag to Amazon's literary abuses, inviting the company into our classrooms at the expense of the very books we study.

notes from the desk

Hattie LeFavour '21 is a Local editor for The Campus.

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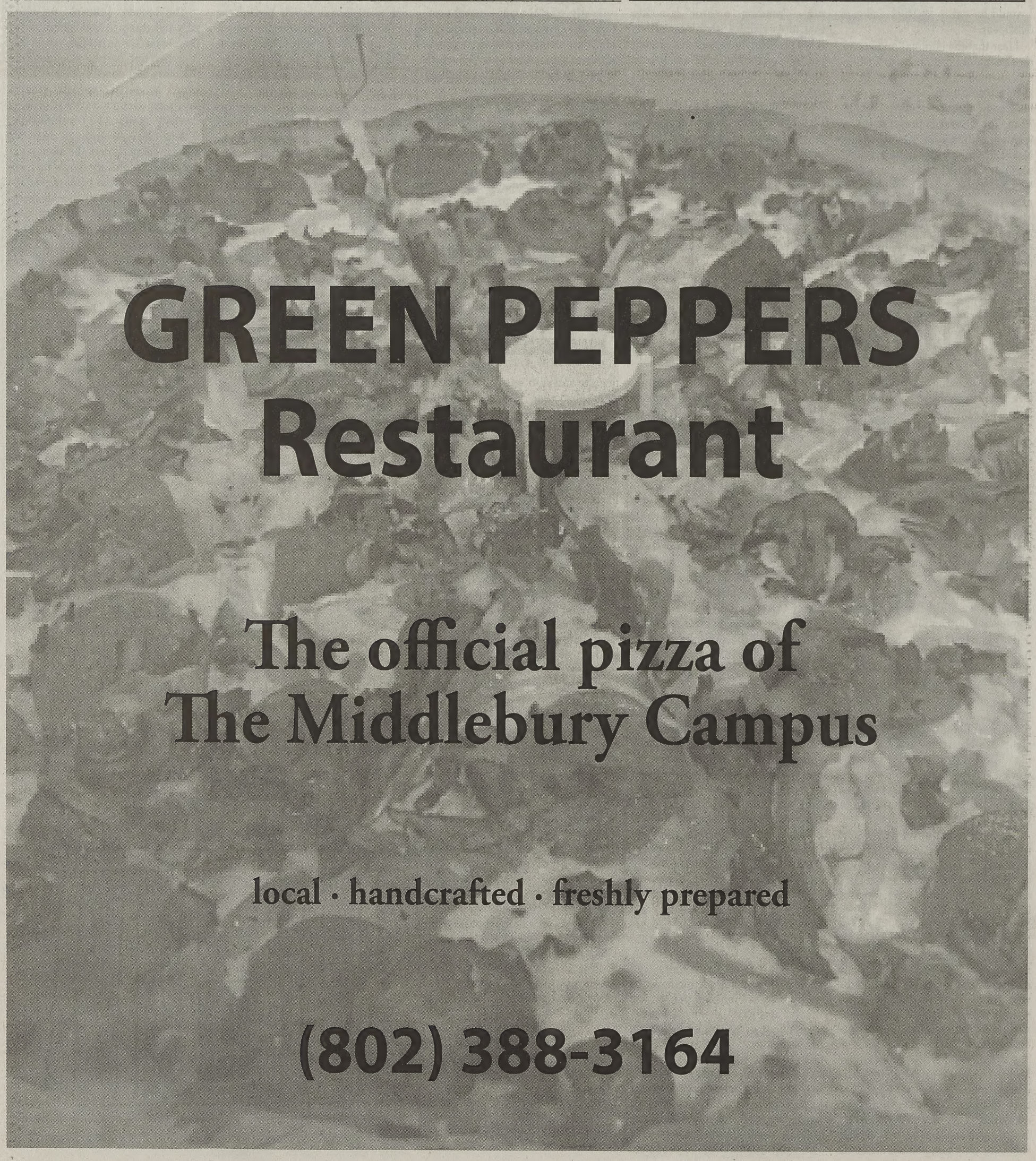


Debussy: Antidote to a cold Vermont Valentine's

By JOHN VAALER
Senior Writer

On Valentine's Day, the Middlebury College Department of Music hosted a faculty recital in Robison Hall. The concert included flute ensemble pieces from Sergie Prokofiev (1891-1953), Robert Schumann (1810-1856) and Claude Debussy (1862-1918). Flutist Anne Janson shared the stage with three other Middlebury Affiliate Artists: pianist Annemieke McLane, violist Stefanie Taylor and harpist Rebecca Kauffman.

The evening began with Prokofiev's "Flute Sonata in D, op. 94" (1943). Prokofiev, a Ukrainian composer, wrote the piece during one of the bleakest periods of the USSR's involvement in the Second World War, several months after the Battle of Stalingrad.

I sometimes have misgivings about Prokofiev's style. To me, Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) and Aram Khachaturian (1903-1978) are the best of the Soviet composers. Those two artists used their compositions not just to enchant audiences, but to simultaneously decry the horrors of Stalinism. Although the USSR once denounced Prokofiev's early music as "anti-democratic formalism," his music generally lacks the overwhelming political and artistic boldness of Shostakovich or Khachaturian. With the exception of the Montague theme from "Romeo and Juliet," Prokofiev wrote only a few truly hummable tunes.

"The piano sections told a jazzy narrative, while the flute playing harkened a military march."

But Janson's playing won me over. She deftly tapped into the piece's darkness, playing minor, occasionally discordant melodies. The piano sections told a jazzy narrative, while the flute playing harkened a military march. The lines between key signatures often blurred.

Janson's favorite piece of the night was the Prokofiev. "The Prokofiev Sonata goes back the farthest with me and I have performed it many more times than any of the other pieces," said the flutist. "What I love about it is the dignified and respectful writing for the flute. Most sonatas of this size were written for instruments like the piano or violin."

"['Sonata in D'] is a hard piece to pull off," Janson said. "It's tiring and easy to play it out of tune, jumping up and down throughout the registers. It's technically challenging, and after all of that, the main goal is to hopefully give a good musical performance in honor of the composer."

Janson's performance honored Prokofiev, and then some. Her interpretation of the third "Andante" movement was particularly nice; hurtling through arpeggios, Janson reached some tricky sounding high notes that stood out from the low frequencies of McLane's piano playing.

"Playing soft is very hard to do, the tone can get thin and flat," said Janson. "Fortunately I love the soft effect and so I stay in shape to do so — I play long tones every day very softly with a tuner."

The last movement of the Prokofiev was the most energetic part of "Sonata in D." McLane was able to pull off some Rachmaninov-esque piano chords that resounded far into the balcony, while Janson kept the tempo alive with quick glissandos.

For audience members who found the Prokofiev piece to be a little too wild, though, there was much to enjoy in the evening's next segment: "Three Romances, op. 94" (1849) by Robert Schumann.

Schumann's compositions are, in some ways, the most emotionally touching of mid-1800s musical canon. His music has all the tenderness of Chopin or Schubert, but is laced with Mendelssohn's subtlety. Considering Schumann's personal life adds layers to his music, too. An 1854 suicide attempt and subsequent confinement in a mental asylum cast large shadows over the composer's work.

My favorite selection of the "Three Romances" was "Einfach, innig" ("simple, heartfelt"). Janson played the section softly, creating a contrast with the brasher Prokofiev piece she had played minutes before. Of particular interest was how the nostalgic motifs of "Einfach, innig" invoked Schumann's "Scenes from Childhood" piano vignettes. Coming into the recital, I certainly knew that I would enjoy the Schumann piece, but I didn't expect to be as moved as I was.

After a brief intermission, Janson — now joined by violist Stefanie Taylor and harpist Rebecca Kauffman — interpreted three brief pieces by University of Vermont music teacher David Fuerzeig, "Short Songs for flute, viola and harp" (2019). These compositions were lovely, paying homage to Debussy while sounding reasonably original.

MAX PADILLA / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Debussy "Sonata for flute, viola and harp" (1915) stole the show. The finest part of the sonata was the opening "Pastorale" segment, where Kauffman's harp-playing hinted at the impressionist fad of Japonisme. Throughout the sonata, the musicians illustrated the pentatonic scales and warbling trills that Debussy used to break away from the Romantics. In the "Interlude" section, for instance, Taylor's viola went up and down zig-zaggy scales in a typically impressionist motif.

A rookie mistake when playing impressionist music is to emote, to "feel" the music and let dynamics and phrasing go on a weekend vacation to Liberaceland. You can sometimes get away with this when playing the Romantics. I, for instance, occasionally add a little too much spice to Chopin's waltzes. But that sort of behavior does not fly with the likes of Ravel and Debussy. Like a Monet landscape, a Debussy piece strings together an accumulation of elements, adding up in a final image that dwarfs the sum of its parts.

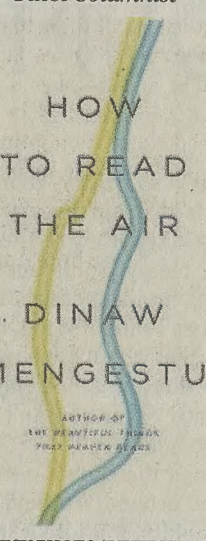
The performers kept Debussy's music crisp. Janson's team — especially Taylor — let no individual motif stretch out too long, and the dynamic transitions emphasized neatness. When the final notes of the sonata died away, the audience was uproarious.

The Middlebury Affiliate Artists who performed last Friday didn't just command three difficult compositions: their heartfelt musicianship was also a good antidote to a cold Vermont evening. On my way out of the Mahaney Center, I stopped at a practice room and plunked my way through Debussy's "Clair de Lune" — a song which I find myself playing when I'm happiest.

MAX PADILLA / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The librarian is in

By KATRINA SPENCER
Guest Columnist



COURTESY PHOTO/RIVERHEAD BOOKS

Mengestu's work treats the story of two Ethiopian immigrants who move to the Midwestern United States and try to make a life for themselves. The budding compatibility they shared at home in East Africa does not translate well to their new surroundings and they struggle to be a couple within their unhappy marriage. Their one child, Jonas, witnesses the violence and seething resentments that long fester between them, and he failingly tries to adjust to an adulthood that seems to be designed for someone from a different background. While sharp, Jonas seems unable to be an honest employee and/or a transparent spouse. His tendency is to do whatever aligns with his survival: demonstrate compliance, fib about his competencies, make alliances with people in power. However, as he performs to win others' acceptance, he seems to lose his grasp on his true self, jeopardizing anything and everything in his life that he has held dear.

The book is not spectacular. The flashbacks to Jonas' father's journey from Ethiopia and the major fight Jonas witnessed between his parents as a child are compelling. They do not sugar coat the trials faced by some immigrants in pursuit of greater opportunities in foreign landscapes and they recreate domestic violence with a naked realism I've not encountered before. However, you have to wonder what the work's thesis is. Perhaps it was "The traumas we inherit in our childhood will eventually manifest themselves in ways beyond our control." It's difficult to know what Mengestu wanted readers to feel about Jonas as the character's broad indifference towards the challenges he confronts conjure little pathos. I'd recommend this work to anyone who is interested in black African immigration patterns among groups that do not have university degrees or ample monetary resources. Other works that treat these themes include Nigerian writer Samuel Kóláwólé's "Sweet sweet strawberry taste" available for free online, America Ferrara's American Like Me and The Penguin Book of Migration Literature edited by Dohra Ahmad.

"The book is not spectacular."

"Untitled Romantic Comedy"

"Untitled Romantic Comedy," unofficially titled "Stop Kiss," is an independent artistic venture that explores young love in the big city. Directed by Cole Merrell '20.5, the piece ran in the Hepburn Zoo on Feb. 14 and 16.

EMMANUEL TAMRAT / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

IN SEARCH OF AIR: GROWING UP DYSLEXIC

By ARIADNE WILL
Local Editor

"This is a story about the transformative power of art," said Assistant Professor of Dance Lida Winfield in a performance on Jan. 16. Her work, titled "In Search of Air: Growing Up Dyslexic," has been performed across the country since 2011 and combines oral storytelling with dance to depict Winfield's journey to knowledge.

Winfield, who struggled in school — a challenge exacerbated by the presence of a learning disability — says that this piece allows her to frame her disability as "a glimpse of brilliance." In this manner, Winfield's show inspires possibility and rebukes a narrative of humiliation and self-hatred.

In her show, Winfield is candid about the shame she experienced because of her learning disability and the love that surrounded her despite it.

"I think that shame is really the crux of what happens with learning disabilities," she said. "I think I was loved by many of my former teachers, but I think because of the situation and the circumstances and the system, I was misunderstood."

COURTESY PHOTO / CHRISTINE ALICINO

Toward the beginning of Winfield's poignant program, she faces the audience and says that "opportunity was in our fingertips; love was in our arms." In spite of the support, Winfield points out that she did not learn to read until much later in her life.

"[Not learning to read] happened because of a whole set of circumstances," she said. "Part of what's so tricky about these things is that our lives are rarely straight lines: they're these wandering, messy, sometimes heartbreaking and sometimes amazing pathways. I think for me, the scale tipped that there was too much shame, there was not enough access [and] I then couldn't get myself through."

Though the show's narrative is centered around Winfield's learning disability, it is also a story that offers themes of hope, strength and resilience. Its universality allows the show to connect with audiences and leave an impact after its viewers exit the performance space.

For Winfield, connecting with her audience through personal story has been a pillar of her performances even before "In Search of Air: Growing Up Dyslexic."

> *"I think that shame is really the crus of what happens with learning disabilities"*
>
> *Professor of Dance Lida Winfield*

"Years and years ago, I was working on a different show and I told a story that [I now tell] in 'In Search of Air.' I was really struck by how moved and interested people were in that particular story," she said. "It felt clear to me that there are so many folks that have amazing, rich and complicated lives who have stories to tell, and this happens to be mine."

By speaking up about her experiences, Winfield has used her show to open up conversation about accessibility in education. As someone who "think[s] better when [she's] moving," Winfield's performance is not just a celebration of knowledge, but also an invitation to revisit other methods of learning.

"I think before reading and writing really became a commodity in the West, [human interaction] was really how knowledge was passed," she says. "I think my body and all of our bodies are smart, that there is wisdom inside of us, and I know that I process the world by moving, by doing."

COURTESY PHOTO/LIDA WINFIELD
Winfield's work draws on her own experience with learning disability in the classroom.

It is perhaps because of this initiation of dialogue – one culminating in a Q&A Winfield conducts at the end of each show – that "In Search of Air: Growing Up Dyslexic" remains regularly booked.

"I think [this show still gets booked] because there's a desire and an interest to be talking about the value of the arts and to be talking about learning disabilities," Winfield said.

Along with details of Winfield's struggle to learn — beginning in elementary school and lasting through her high school years — the show also involves moments where she realizes her potential.

"I could be a doctor," she tells the audience, later in the piece, during a moment when her character is attending college. "I could be your doctor," she adds. Ensuingly, she says, "I start to think and I start to feel smart."

It is this empowering feeling of capability that Winfield hopes to instill not just in her audience, but also in her own students.

"I think as a learner, you sometimes need someone else to help move [fear and self-hatred] out of the way," she said. "There is so much self-hatred and there's so much fear riddled inside of all of us and that is a barrier to being our best self. If, as a facilitator, I can help shift that in any way, then I think the other things just get to grow."

Reel critic: 'And Then We Danced'

By NINA NG
Staff Writer

In "And Then We Danced," the Hirschfield Series' latest politically-charged love story, Swedish director Levan Akin tells the story of a dancer navigating a career-defining audition and his struggles with his own sexuality.

Set in Tbilisi, Georgia, "And Then We Danced" interweaves poverty, art and love. Played by Levan Gelbakhiani, the main character Merab's affection for Irakli (Bachi Valishvili), a new member of the dance troup, serves as motivation for him to persist in his dance auditions despite heavy stigmatization of homosexuality in Georgia. From the start, Akin emphasises heterosexual norms as dancers are heard gossiping about Zaza, an unseen character who is sent off to a monastery due to his homosexuality. Linking tradition and sexuality through the community of dance, the film highlights the internal, and often overlooked, discrimination in the industry.

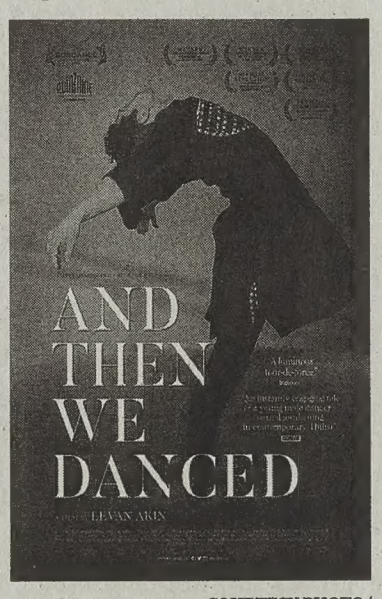
Akin pushes for emotional honesty and aptly achieves it with poignant reflection. Through Gelbakhiani's intimate performance, it's easy to throw yourself into the turbulence of Merab's world.

Merab's love for dance is apparent as he jumps and spins, catching his breath every few seconds as the class watches on. The dance studio, old and worn with a patchy floor and mirrors taped together, reminds the audience of the characters' impoverished state. Merab dances both for pleasure and out of financial and familial necessity.

Merab continues to be criticized for his dancing as the film progresses, with the dance director emphasizing traditional masculinity through the technical intensity and rigidity of Georgian dance. This added pressure magnifies the competition between Merab and Irakli as the latter is praised in the studio as an impressive and talented dancer. Merab's self confidence teeters as he simultaneously meanders through poverty amidst dinners of restaurant leftovers by candlelight after his serving shift. Dance acts as a way for the youth in the film to dream of living lives beyond their struggles.

Dance partners Mary (Ana Javakishvili) and Merab frequently discuss their aspirations on the steps of the studio. The film isn't nearly as dreary as it could be in a commendable effort in raising heavy topics — from lusting after luxury cigarettes to lusting after Irakli, these details serve as (find word to replace lighthearted) reminders of young adulthood. Moments of emotional and social tumult are even more pronounced in comparison. Gelbakhiani shows us the isolation and difficulties Merab faces in the studio as he grapples with his feelings of insecurity and love for Irakli through a personal, boyish portrayal.

Following reflection upon reflection, "And Then We Danced" presents a thought-provoking take on the bildungsroman. Akin holds back when portraying the dilemmas point-blank. The film puts a filter on fully confrontational drama as characters dance around the ostracism, and mellows down on its manifestations. While gossip circulates and characters are jeered — and are even thrust into fights — the film touches on the realities of discrimination in a way that keeps the dream of art and acceptance



COURTESY PHOTO/
FRENCH QUARTER FILM

still intact. This decision works in the film's advantage as Merab, learning to be himself, grows from the physical pain of dance and the pain of losing Irakli to reality as he decides to become engaged to a woman. The film in its final scenes questions the constraints gender norms impose, ultimately presenting us with a new question: when we are diminished to insignificance, where does our significance lie?

The answer is in the title. A precipitous dance comes full circle as Merab defies expectations of tradition: he frantically spins, giving a dazzling performance on the dance floor and creating a dialogue of his own. Gesturing to the unknown, the film suspends us in the moment. We hang off of his breath; Merab pirouettes with confidence a final time, eyes gazing up.

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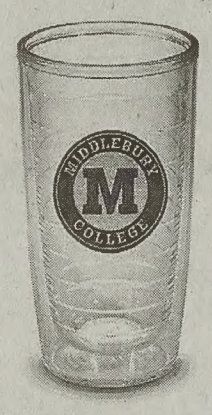

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DON'T MISS THIS

Reflection Fridays: What Matters to Me and Why

The Innovation Hub and the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life will feature Varsha Vijayakumar '20, SGA President in an interview dialogue with John Schurer '21, SGA Junior Senator. She will reflect on the question "What matters to you, and why?" This will be a conversation full of connectivity and intimacy.

Friday, 2/21, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Axinn Center Abernethy Room

Dayve Huckett and Friends

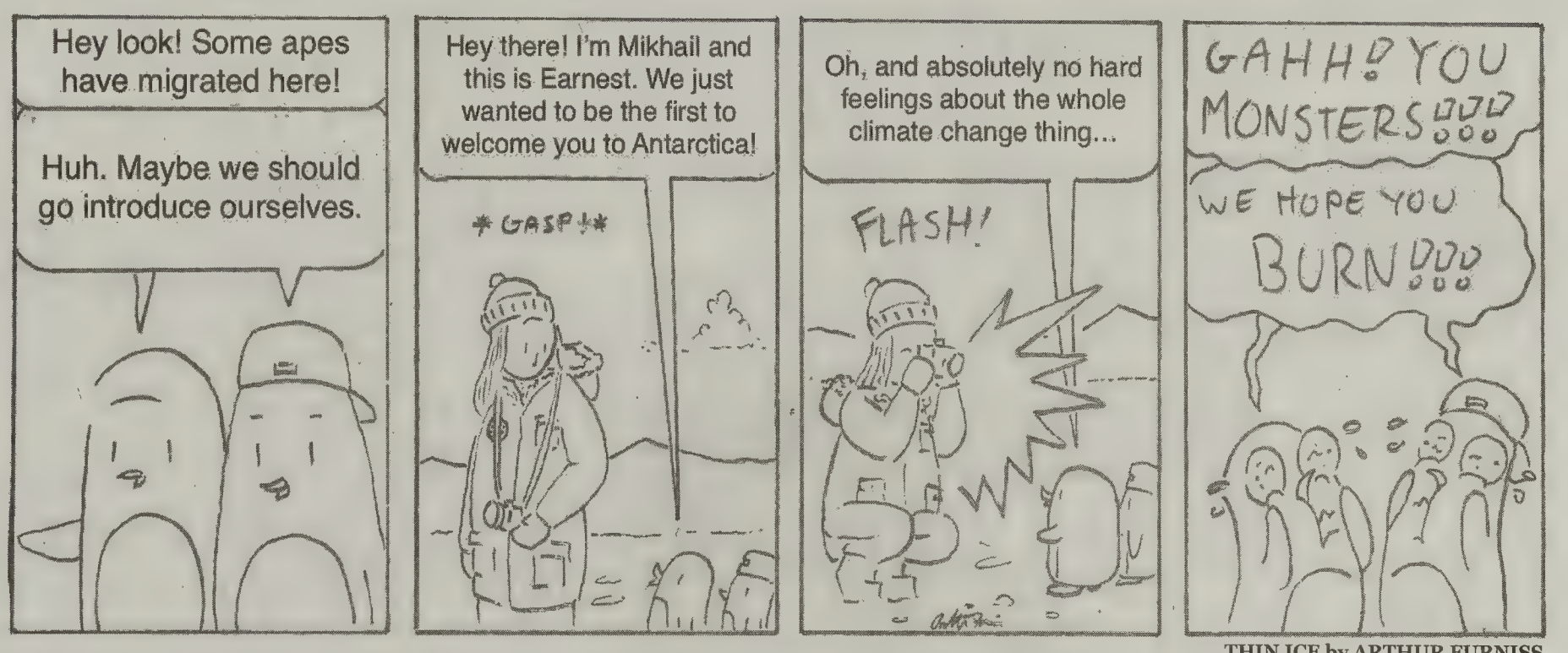
Affiliate Artist Dayve Huckett will perform solo guitar and perform with professor Peter Hamlin, Ron White and student musicians. A Kansas native, Huckett started playing the guitar at the age of 12 after being inspired by Beatles and Ed Sullivan. He traveled from Oregon to Maine to play music, and finally settled in Vermont. Huckett currently teaches guitar at Middlebury College and the Middlebury Community Music

Saturday, 2/22, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Robison Concert Hall

"Raine/Vortex"+"Middlebury Performance Lab"

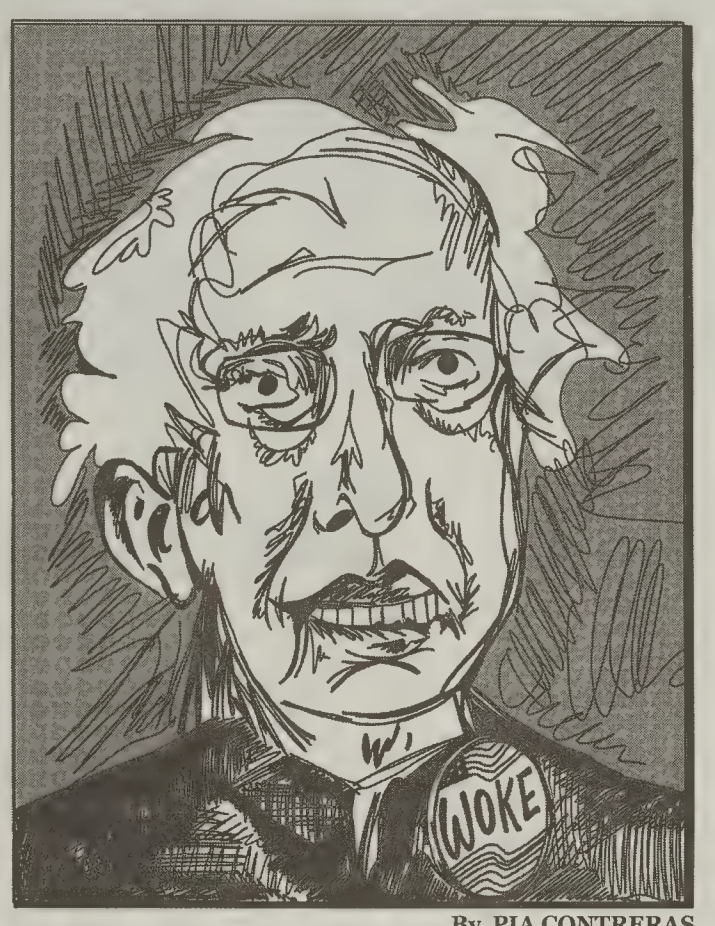
San Francisco-based choreographer Sara Shelton Mann will present her work as part of her Rothrock Residency. She will showcase two works in one night with Middlebury College students followed by "Raine/Vortex." This event will also feature a collaboration between Mann and Jesse Zaritt. She said, "My work begins with structured exercises designed to make contact with these messages as they are expressed through the energetic body."

Saturday, 2/22, 7:30 p.m., MAC Dance Theatre


Hey look! Some apes have migrated here!
Huh. Maybe we should go introduce ourselves.
Hey there! I'm Mikhail and this is Earnest. We just wanted to be the first to welcome you to Antarctica!
GASP!
Oh, and absolutely no hard feelings about the whole climate change thing...
FLASH!
GAHH! YOU MONSTERS!!!
WE HOPE YOU BURN!!!

THIN ICE by ARTHUR FURNISS

By PIA CONTRERAS



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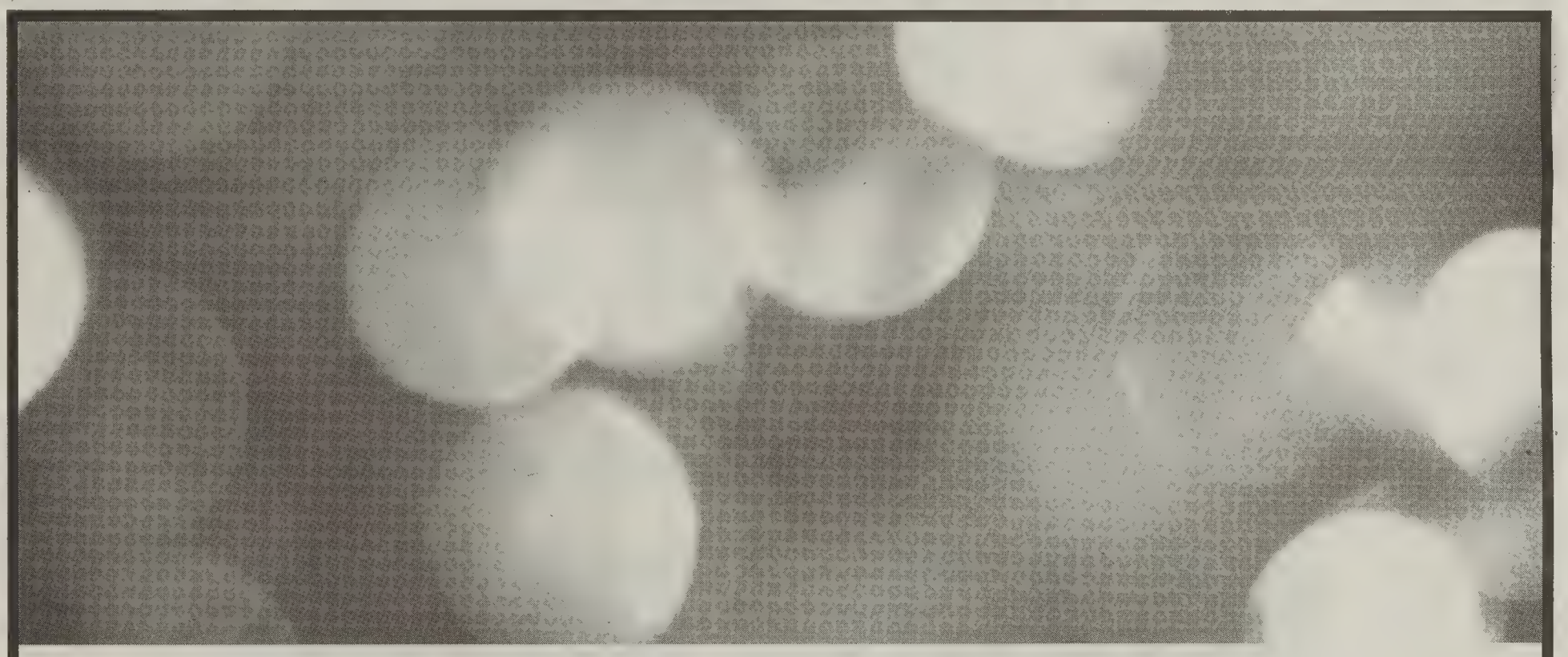

What are your plans this

SUMMER?

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As a Middlebury College undergrad, you can access incredible summer opportunities across the country and around the world.

And be sure to look into the many funding opportunities available.

For a list of summer programs, visit **go.middlebury.edu/middsummer**.

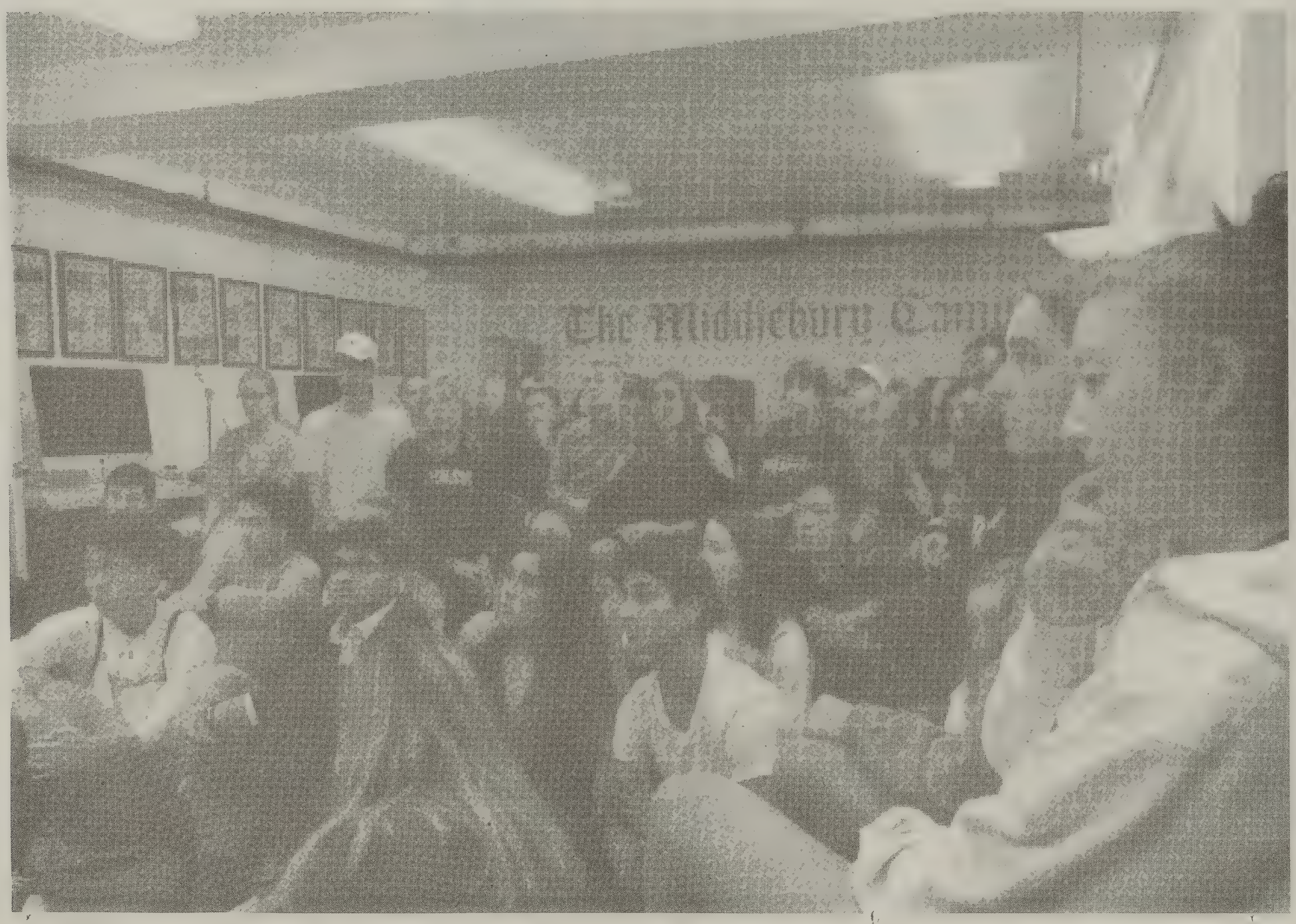
The Middlebury Campus

Interest meeting

Thursday, Feb. 20 at 9 p.m. in Hepburn basement

We're looking for new writers, photographers, illustrators, design editors, copy editors and audio/video-savvy folks to join our team. Come meet our staff and ask your burning questions about Middlebury's only student-run newspaper!

Email campus@middlebury.edu with questions or concerns.



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Community postings

Eckankar Vermont

Animals Are Soul Too!

Time: Thursday, Feb. 20, 6-7:15 p.m.
Location: Ilsley Public Library

Our connection to animals can open our hearts & our lives. Come share the surprising, funny & profound ways animals have brought love or insight into your life. All are welcome to this free open spiritual discussion. Hosted by Eckankar. More info: www.eckankar-vt.org and 800-772-9390

HU Chant: The Sound of Soul

Time: Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:15 p.m.
Location: Ilsley Public Library

Looking for spiritual insight? Try a spiritual exercise to tap your inner truth. All are welcome to a 20 minute HU Chant followed by contemplation and conversation.

Hosted by Eckankar. More info: www.eckankar-vt.org

Center for Careers & Internships

See these opportunities and more at go/handshake.

University of Rochester Center for Health + Technology

Location: Rochester, NY
Term: Full Time Job
Deadline: February 20

This is a great opportunity to combine your interests in patient care, research, health outcomes, and data analytics. The Center for Health and Technology (CHeT) conducts patient research in order to better understand the patient experience and develop and validate custom-made disease specific instruments for use in therapeutic trials. APPLY TODAY!

Cape Eleuthera Institute

Location: Cape Eleuthera, Bahamas
Term: Summer
Deadline: February 25

CCI will fund two interns at the Cape Eleuthera Island School. The Cape Eleuthera Institute intern will research marine island ecosystems and their conservation, exploring endangered species ecology, environmental restoration and monitoring, and sustainable fisheries. The Center for Sustainable Development intern will help develop sustainable living systems for a remote island location, such as assessing and reducing impact on freshwater and land ecosystems, and examining and improving interactions with energy, water, food and wastestream systems. Juniors and Senior Febs are eligible. The $3000 CCI award will cover the cost of housing and food at the Island School and travel.

The Nature Conservancy

Location: Washington DC
Term: Summer 2020
Deadline: February 26

This is internship is part of a diversity & inclusion leadership summer internship program. The Climate & Clean Energy intern will provide research, writing, and communications support for senior staff of The Nature Conservancy's Global Conservation Campaigns (GCC) and U.S. Government Relations (USGR) teams in the External Affairs Department. The GCC team consists of 10 staff who serve as consultants to TNC's state chapters to help them achieve solutions to conservation challenges by increasing investments in nature and changing public attitudes and behaviors so that nature and people thrive. This includes advancing climate change and clean energy policy outcomes in the U.S. at the national and state level to spur action and build bridges across political spectrum.

Anthropocene Capital Management

Location: Chicago, IL
Deadline: February 28

Trainee Equity Intern with Japanese Language Fluency entails conducting research and financial analysis for a new start-up hedge fund specializing in international equities in the Environment, Social Responsibility and Governance (ESG) sphere. The successful candidate will become part of a small research team, providing Japanese language skills and conducting company-oriented research. This position entails conducting research into publicly traded Japanese companies including the review of publicly available information and research in Japanese. On-the-job training in equity analysis will be provided.

Vermont Business Strategy & Consulting

Location: Middlebury, VT
Term: Summer
Deadline: March 2

For students interested in leading a business, non-profit, or other organization, or in management consulting as a career, this internship provides an in-depth hands-on experience working on key strategic management issues for a local enterprise. Interns will receive guidance and mentoring from clients and an experienced management & strategy consultant. Interns will receive a stipend of $3,000 and on campus housing is available.

Cross Ocean Partners

Location: Greenwich, CT
Term: Summer
Deadline: March 6 (12:00 noon)

This opportunity has been referred by an alumnus! Cross Ocean Partners, a private investment firm that focuses on credit investment opportunities across a broad range of asset classes, is looking for a summer intern to join the Investor Relations and Marketing team. This position is open to sophomores and juniors.

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Service

Location: Boston, MA
Term: Full Time Job
Deadline: Rolling

The Clinical Research Assistant is be responsible for coordination of all clinical research studies being conducted by the Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Service including IRB protocol development, approval/maintenance, candidate screening, clinical evaluation, coordination of patient follow-up, data collection, and database maintenance.

Center for Community Engagement

2020 Japan Summer Service-Learning Program

Location: Washington, DC
Term: Spring Break
Deadline: February 19

The Japan Summer Service-Learning Program (JSSL) is a collaborative, intercultural service-learning program. Participating students work, learn and engage with local residents in the Tokyo metropolitan region as well as in Tenryumura — a small village in the mountains of Nagano Prefecture. This three-week program is open to Middlebury undergraduates in the classes of 2021, 2022 and 2023 who will have completed at least one year of Japanese language study prior to the program start date. The application and more information can be found at go/jssl.

Contact: Kristen Mullins, kmullins@middlebury.edu.

STEAM Girls internship

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 21 at 11:59 p.m.

STEAM Girls is a team of Middlebury College students who lead lessons in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics to local girls ages 5–18. Our mission is to foster confidence and enjoyment in girls from a young age towards STEAM to make them feel comfortable and unintimidated by the content when they encounter it again.

We are currently recruiting paid interns for the spring 2020 semester. Interns can choose to work on curriculum, budgeting, marketing, outreach, organization management, networking and new initiatives. Please apply at go/steamgirlsinterns.

Contact: steamgirlsvt@gmail.com

Teach for America info session

Date: Monday, Feb. 24, 6–7 p.m.
Location: The CCE

Passionate about education in the U.S.? Looking for a high-impact job after graduation? Teach for America is a leadership development organization that aims to end educational inequity in the United States. Teach for America corps members serve a two-year commitment as teachers in over 50 locations across the country.

For those looking to learn more about the organization, or how to apply, the CCE will be hosting an information session on February 24 from 6:00–7:00 p.m. All graduation years welcome. Speak with a recently accepted TFA Midd senior and enjoy the catered pizza!

Jiran: The Arabic Community Action Summer is now accepting applications

Deadline: Wednesday, March 4 at 11:59 p.m.

Jiran is a summer language program that pairs intermediate and advanced Arabic students with underserved Arabic-speaking families in New Britain, Conn. This intensive summer Arabic program focuses on colloquial Levantine Arabic and migration studies. This year Middlebury will sponsor a select group of college students accepted into the program to attend for free! More info at go/jiran.

Join our CCE team as a summer intern!

Join a fast-paced, creative, joyful, and inclusive work environment and make a meaningful impact on campus and in local, regional, and international communities through this paid position in the Center for Community Engagement. Learn more about the position at go/ccesummerintern.

Contact: Ashley Laux, alaux@middlebury.edu

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Panthers off to the races ahead of Middlebury Carnival

By CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Sports Writer

Middlebury is coming off its second straight carnival win at the Williams Carnival on Feb. 14-15. The streak couldn't have come at a better time.

The men's nordic team posted strong results as **Peter Wolter** '21 placed 4th in the 10k classical event and **Samuel Hodges** '22 followed closely with a 12th place finish. In the only relay of the season, the men placed 7th.

Women's nordic also displayed their consistent dominance with three top 10 finishes. **Alexandra Lawson** '21, **Sophia Laukli** '23, and **Annika Landis** '20 finished 2nd, 4th, and 8th, respectively. These three also won the 3x5 relay race decisively, with the next team finishing over a minute later.

Laukli reflected on her quick transition into such a successful team.

"It's exciting to think that we won two carnivals in a row because that hasn't been done by Midd in a very long time. Coming in as a freshman and having such a strong squad has been super motivating. I'm pumped that I have the next three years to continue our success," she said.

Despite stellar individual performances, this was a team effort. The alpine team held their own, with some career best finishes for multiple racers. Day one saw **Tim Gavett** '22 and **Erik Arvidsson** '21 tied for 1st place and Michel Macedo '22 finished in 5th, a career best in their Giant Slalom race. On the second day, three men finished in the top six for the Slalom race. **Justin Alkier** '21 won the Slalom race for the third time this season and Arvidsson and Gavett placed 4th and 6th, respectively.

The alpine women put in some incredible times as well. **Nina Reichhelm** '23 and **Katie Utter** '20 recorded career best times and placed 5th and 7th, respectively, in Giant Slalom. In Slalom, **Lucia Bailey** '21 finished in 3rd and **Emma Hall** '23 got her first career top 10 finish for Midd, placing 9th.

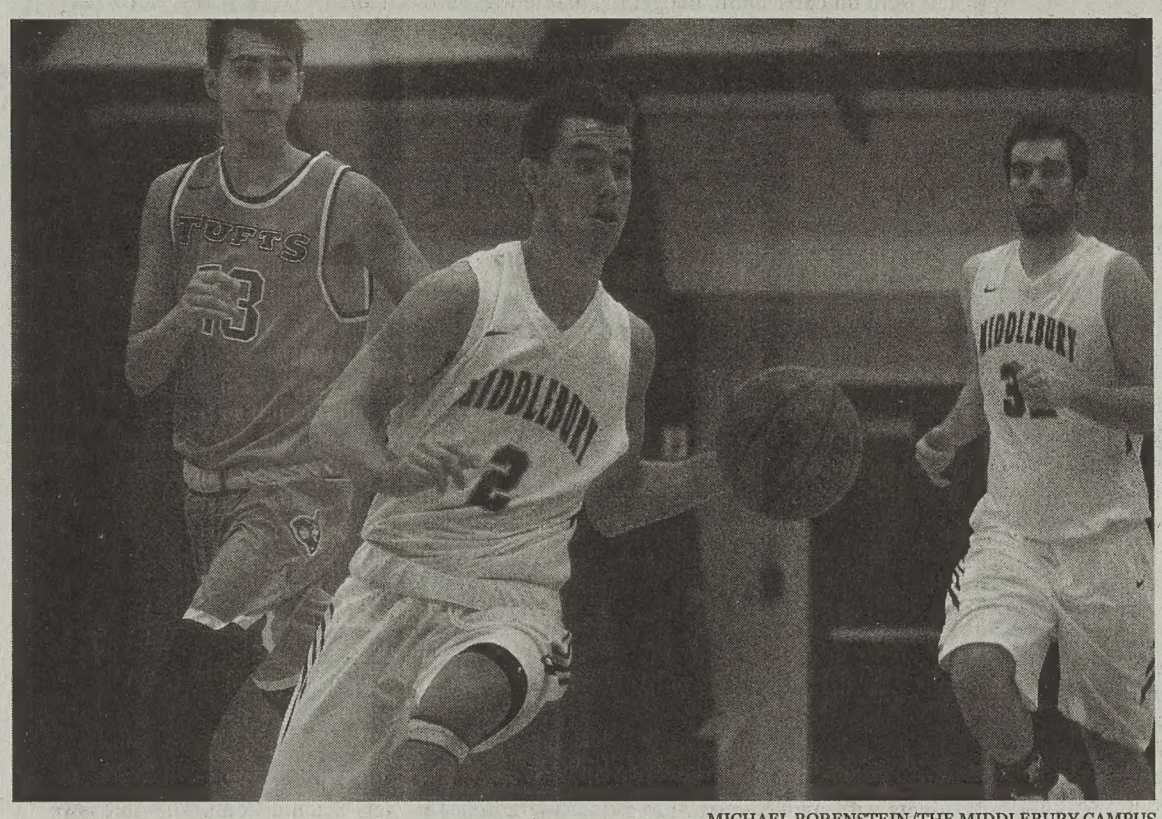
The teams have a week off before they host the Middlebury Carnival on Feb. 28-29th.

Rebecca Clark '23 relayed the team's goals for the upcoming bye week.

"Most of the team is going to take the weekend off and get some needed rest so that everyone is healthy, energetic and really fired up going into Midd Carnival," said Clark.

The upcoming bye weekend should definitely provide such a break for the athletes. Confidence is high and excitement fills the campus in anticipation of the home races. It should be an outstanding weekend to be a Panther.

EMMA STAPLETON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Rolling Panthers suffer heartbreaker to Bates

By MICHAEL SEGEL
Sports Writer

The Panthers' dominant season was given yet another high note on Friday night as they handed Tufts only their fifth loss of the season and their first in NESCAC play. Tufts took off on a full head of steam in the opening minutes, attaining a 9–3 advantage. Middlebury was not to be stifled, quickly knotting up the score at 9–9. The teams remained neck and neck for a good while until the Panthers attacked for eight unanswered points to give themselves a 44–36 lead. Holding a six point lead at the half, the Panthers were quick to advance their lead by scoring the first five points out of halftime. Middlebury began to creep away until the lead had jumped to 78–60. The Jumbos went on a late 8–0 run, but the game belonged to Middlebury and they won by a score of 86–74.

Max Bosco '21 had a tremendous offensive performance, leading all players with 26 points. **Matt Folger** '20 put up an all-around impressive game with 18 points, 14 rebounds, and a couple of steals as well. **Tommy Eastman** '21 added a double-double of his own with 14 points and 11 rebounds. **Jack Farrell** '21 was a key part as well with 8 rebounds and 8 assists.

Friday's relatively easy victory was quickly turned around by a heartbreaker on Middlebury's senior day. Bates, thanks to a buzzer beater from Nick Gilpin, escaped with a 90–87 victory to end Middlebury's regular season on a sour note.

Bates was out to a 10–4 lead when the Panthers turned the game on its head with a 10–0 streak. The game stayed tight throughout the first half, but Bates led 40–35 at the break.

Middlebury was able to turn the game around once again and held a five point lead with less than five minutes to play. Bates fought back and with the game knotted up at 87–87, everything came down to the final ten seconds. A Batesmissed shot made it Panther ball, but a turnover gave the ball back to Bates and allowed Gilpin to drain the 23-footer to seal a hard fought victory.

Eastman put up 28 points, a personal best, and Folger put up his second double-double of the weekend with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

It was a disappointing way to end a dominant regular season but on a happier note, Middlebury will play as the fifth seed in the NESCAC Quarterfinals against #4 Trinity at Trinity next Saturday at 3:00 pm.

Women's swimming and diving takes fifth as NESCAC hosts

COURTESY PHOTO

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

Sometimes, competition is fiercest with whom you're most familiar. Eleven women's swimming and diving squads from around the NESCAC converged at the Middlebury Natatorium from Feb. 13-16 for the conference championships. Middlebury, who hosted the event, placed seventh and compiled a score of 684 points. Williams took first with 1930.5 points, Tufts second with 1593.5 points, and Amherst third with 1369.

Some notable performances include a first-place finish by **Frances VanderMeer** '20 in the 50-yard freestyle, a seventh-place finish by **Haley Hutchinson** '23 in the 200-yard breaststroke, and an eighth-place finish by **Olivia Rieur** '22 on the three-meter diving board.

Despite not finishing first as a team, the Panthers' showing could still be deemed as successful.

"A lot of the younger swimmers on the team really stepped up and were able to suppress their nerves and get the job done," said VanderMeer, who is also a captain. "At a meet of this size and with a high level of competition, it's easy to be overwhelmed and let the nervousness take over. I'm really proud of how our team was able to focus on our races, both in terms of individual performance and supporting each other on deck."

The championship also capped off many remarkable careers for the seniors.

"The meet was definitely an emotional one for the seniors," said VanderMeer. "We've been looking forward to having NESCACs in our home pool since freshman year and we really tried to savor every moment of it."

"I think I speak for us all when I say that we wouldn't have wanted to go out any other way," said VanderMeer.

Men's squash snags third at conference tournament

By MAX PADILLA
Senior Photo Editor

The men's team played Amherst, Bates and Trinity at Bowdoin this weekend. The boys redeemed themself from the last few weeks, bringing home the win from Amherst 6–3 and Bates 7–2, but lost to Trinity, 8–1. Middlebury placed third in the NESCAC championships for the fifth year in a row. In two weeks, the boys head to Bowdoin to compete in the CSA team championships. The men's team has usually performed relatively well at the team championships, winning the majority of their games played in the last three seasons they've competed in the match.

Women's hockey gifts seniors with a "W"

By MAX PADILLA
Senior Photo Editor

The women's hockey team continued their successful season, notching two wins this past weekend. They defeated Williams 4–0 on Saturday and 3–1 on Sunday as they finished off their home portion of the season.

Maddie Leidt '21 shined throughout the weekend, scoring a total of three goals in the two games.

Middlebury is currently ranked atop the NESCAC with a record of 12-1-1. The panthers have outperformed the other teams by a mile, winning four more games than the second and third placed teams (Amherst and Colby, respectively).

Their season will end this weekend against Bowdoin, ranked 5th in the conference. Over the past few years, the ladies have generally succeeded in beating out the Polar Bears.

Track and field tackles two meets over the weekend

By JORDAN HOWELL
Sports Writer

The Panthers track and field teams divided and conquered over the weekend by competing in two non-scoring meets. The women's squad competed in the David Hemery Valentine Invitational on Feb. 14, while some of the men participated on Feb. 15. Men and women not present at the Valentine Invitational headed to the Ephs Field & Track Meet on Feb. 15.

Some notable performances punctuated the Valentine Invitational, like **Grace Desmond** '23 earning eighth in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 9.31, or **Jonathan Fisher** '20 placing eleventh in the high jump event. His jump reached 1.95 meters.

"I would say that overall, we had some great performances at BU this past weekend, which is an exciting step in the right direction for the team," said **William Robertson** '21 when asked to comment on the team's performance.

Outstanding performances also highlighted the Ephs Field & Track Meet. **Nathaniel Klein** '21 and **Helene Rowland** '20 both placed first in the shot put event in their respective meets.

As the Division III New England Championships are coming up on Feb. 28 and 29, the team will have some time to build up more confidence.

"I would say that running at a track as fast as the one at BU is a great way to prep for DIII New Englands," said Robertson. "Getting a chance to run a fast time builds confidence, which is exactly what we need going into DIIIs."

Women's squash back in top 15 ahead of nationals

By JACK KAGAN
Sports Editor

The women's squash team is hitting their stride at the right time. As the Panthers head down to Yale University for the CSA Team Championships this weekend, February 21-23, they benefit from the most recent set of national rankings, which saw them jump up from No. 17 to No. 15.

This change means more than just two spots — it also places the Panthers in a higher division, as the CSA championships separate teams by ranking in groups of eight to form each bracket. Thus, Middlebury will now compete as the No. 7 seed in the B division, the second best in the country.

The Panthers' ascent is due to their strong performance at the NESCAC Championships, where they avenged a regular season loss against then-higher-seeded Bates, en route to a third place finish.

The jump to the B division will give the Panthers another shot at strong competition, with a potential first-round slate against No. 10 University of Virginia, who handed the women a 9-0 loss three weeks ago.

Rematches with Brown, George Washington, and Bates could prove interesting as prior matches with all three teams have been tight for the Panthers.

The Middlebury Pranksters: The ultimate experience

COURTESY PHOTO

COURTESY PHOTO

By HEATHER BOHEM
Sports Editor

Flair: a term that when spoken aloud to some means a rustic pair of good ol' "bell bottoms." But that would be "flare," spelled differently. No, this "flair" is something completely different – not a '70s fad poking its head in and out of the fashion world as it pleases. To one specific group on campus, this word defines its culture like no other expression can. That group is the Ultimate Frisbee Team, the Middlebury Pranksters.

"Flair" is widely known in the ultimate frisbee world. But how teams choose to incorporate it into their culture varies. Pranksters — both the men and women's teams — define flair as a word for "atypical" clothing. Whether it is a sparkly tutu or leggings ordained with the anatomy of a leg, anything goes with flair. Flair is anything you want to wear that brings you joy. Grace Kellogg '22 describes wearing flair as "owning who you are and the way you want to have fun."

It also allows the teams to bring some levity and excitement to their practices, speaking to the cornerstone of their culture. Have you ever tried to sprint 50 yards in a sparkly tutu? By no means is flair always comfortable to play in. But this tradition goes way beyond the chafing between one's legs. It provides a sense of community, bringing a laugh or two before that 50-yard sprint.

"It's a way to not take ourselves too seriously, but at the same time we take what we do very seriously," said Adrienne Goldstein '20, one of the team's captains.

Each year, the Pranksters have a bi-annual "flair pass down" — one at the end of J-Term and one at the end of the spring semester. During this teary-eyed event, graduating seniors give away what they believe to be meaningful pieces of "flair" — items either passed down to them by former Pranksters or ones obtained in a quick run to the nearby thrift store for a last-minute gold mining opportunity. Upon appointing another team member as the bearer of the aforementioned sparkly tutu, the senior recounts tales of the items' origins.

Articles can include practically anything, whether they are connected to an individual or the team as a whole. Kellogg recalled a senior who found medical scrubs after raiding a thrift store and gifted them to a pre-med student. "You do things that help them feel connected to a community that is a lot bigger than them," Kellogg said.

To understand the Pranksters and the culture of the team today, it is important to revisit the roots of ultimate. Unlike many other club and varsity sports, frisbee is a relatively new sport, rising to fame in the tumultuous '60s as a form of counterculture that tried to alter a specific lifestyle. Ultimate was a form of revolt against the uniformity of competitive sports. Rutgers and Princeton battled in the first official collegiate contest in 1972. From the very first moment it was created, the founders were laser-focused on fostering a unique set of values that would set it apart. These virtues of a "letting loose" lifestyle are pronounced in the Pranksters we know today.

The Pranksters are agile both on and off the field. They pride themselves on being dynamic and able to adjust to the needs of each new class it brings in. The central mantra tends to be the idea of inclusivity. An example of this is the way in which the teams constantly reevaluate their culture through their community standards workshop. Previously, the official name of the women's team was the Middlebury Lady Pranksters. Last year, Goldstein picked up on some tension with regards to the gendered team name, and quickly assembled a poll that she sent out to her team. There was a unanimous vote to change the official name, despite years of its acceptance.

"This team is for the people who are on it now," Goldstein said. "We obviously love our alumni and value our traditions, but we don't want to keep traditions just for the sake of it — we had had so much success with that name, but the people that were on the team didn't like it. Our traditions aren't static. We never want to put anyone in a vulnerable or uncomfortable position, and that is across the board and the final word."

The inclusivity continues through the winter. Each J-Term, the Pranksters put on J-Term workshops and create different traditions to combat the cold and darkness that can eclipse January in Vermont. The group does its best to ensure that teammates forget the icy wind chill for just a few short hours each week. The workshops can range from anything like "How to Twerk" to a more lowkey "Spa Night." These are not mandatory, but they provide a more accessible social option. The culture is simple: You are never alone.

"It's a way to not take ourselves too seriously, but at the same time we take what we do very seriously."

Adrienne Goldstein '20

However, not all team members experience this attention to inclusivity equally. Last year, an article by Sidra Pierson '21, written for a J-Term sports journalism course and published in The Campus, highlighted some questions about the team's emphasis on inclusivity. For some people of color on the team, this focus was not ringing true.

"POC communities have different cultural norms than majority white communities do," said Divya Gudur '21, a student quoted in Pierson's article. "I think the quirkiness sometimes doesn't fit into POC culture." If we already stand out, she says, why would we want to draw more attention to ourselves?

"I thought the team was really receptive to Pierson's article," said Goldstein. "We shared it in our GroupMe and discussed it (along with other topics) at a community workshop. I think for a lot of white members of the team it forced us to confront the fact that being inclusive of POCs takes more than just being really friendly in interpersonal interactions."

Goldstein added that she has tried to bear the article in mind as she's made leadership decisions this year. "In general, we have tried to change the way we discuss and valorize weirdness," she said. "With wearing flair for example, we are trying to shift away from an attitude of, 'This is something we all do' to, 'This is something you can do if you want.' However, I think that there is still a lot of work to be done."

Due to this year's overwhelming interest in ultimate, the captains resurrected the women's B team for the first time in four years. This program addition allows more students to be active, competitive and social. This change also helps accommodate the varying levels of the athletes. For instance, being from Seattle, one of the nation's ultimate hubs, it is only natural that Kellogg is a longtime veteran of the game. She competed on her varsity high school team. This is in stark contrast to those who have never once thrown the disc.

This being said, the program's decision to expand also had a developmental component. There is the hope that with increased training and instruction, some of these B team members will improve and contribute to the success of the A team. Biology Professor Erin Eggleston is currently coaching the B team.

Goldstein wears a few hats, considering that the A team is coached by students. "Being a captain and a coach at the same time, having to play and also think about the big picture is really really tough," said Goldstein. "We were the ones that created the A and B teams and have to also act as the emotional support. There is a large amount of emotional pressure put on us ... but it is really rewarding. It is great that it's student driven in a lot of ways."

The teams face a multitude of challenges, including unsufficient coaches, trainers and funds. The captains have close-to-last dibs on reserving time slots in the fieldhouse, and players are unable to check off a P.E. requirement from participating, regardless of their dedication.

In spite of these hurdles, Pranksters have managed to pull off impressive results. The women went from being unranked two years ago to rounding out the season at nationals in fifth place. The men are coming off a national championship run, and looking to pick up another title at the end of this spring.

"It's fun to be this team that's out there, and actually delivering," Kellogg said.

Even in the unassuming sparkly tutu, they work hard. Really hard. The captains schedule around two A team practices a week on the turf, if they are able to secure the times, and two lifts a week.

Both teams have come a long way. For the women, the goal had traditionally been to get to nationals. Coming off last year's season and securing fourth in preseason rankings, the goal is now to *win* nationals. However, they are trying to stay humble and not get too far ahead of themselves.

"We are trying to be more process oriented, than results oriented," Goldstein said. "We are trying to go into every game confident, but not cocky."

Hopefully, the Pranksters will be able to show what they are capable of in the upcoming months, whether they are leaping up to the disc in medical scrubs or neon capes. The constant commitment to developing their unique culture will only increase their chances of succeeding.

"[We] are one of the only D3 teams that can be both competitive and goofy," Kellog said. "You put on your flair and you're ready to run."

Men's hockey takes a hit

By BLAISE SIEFER
Sports Writer

The past two months have been tough for the men's hockey team, who have garnered just two wins out of 14 games in that span. After falling twice to No. 12 Williams this weekend, the Panthers sit fifth in the NESCAC as they enter their final week of the regular season.

The Panther's kicked off their back-to-back duel against Williams away from home, where they fell to the Ephs in Williamstown by a score of 3–2 in overtime. **Paddy Bogart** '23 quickly put the Panthers ahead, scoring a minute into the game. However, his effort was quickly neutralized by Tyler Scott's backhander for Williams, which tied the game at 1–1 deep into the first period. After a scoreless second stanza, Williams needed just 34 seconds to earn the lead, thanks to the Eph's forward Wyatt Glover. After a frustrating third period for the Panthers, a breakthrough finally came with 17 seconds left in the game, after **Danny Tighe** '20 knocked in a shot following an assist from **Brendan Dawson** '20. Despite their remarkable effort to extend the game past regulation, the Panthers were put to bed just over 2 minutes into overtime, when Williams sealed the win through a goal by Mac Carso.

Both teams headed north for their tie the next day, this time taking place in Kenyon Arena. Despite having home court advantage, the Panthers failed to capitalize, which was consistent with an overall trend this season. While men's puck have been satisfactory for away games — winning 50% of their matches — they have been dreadful on their home ice, winning just 20% of their duels. After gaining the lead following an effort from **Alex Heinritz** '21 at the end of the first stanza, the Panthers proceeded to concede five consecutive goals, suffering a 5—1 deficit by the middle of the final period. The Panthers notched two consolation goals, with both **Mitchell Allen** '20 and **Owen Powers** '20 finding the back of the net for the struggling home side. With this goal, Owen Powers extended his point total to 17, good for most on the team. This mark includes 5 goals (T-2 on the team) and 12 assists (most on the team).

Men's puck (8-11-3, 6-7-3) is set to play their final two regular season games next weekend, hosting Amherst (9-9-4, 7-6-3) on Friday and Hamilton (10-8-4, 9-5-2) on Saturday. Game times are marked for 7 p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively. Come out and support your Panthers!

COURTESY PHOTO

Women's basketball bows out in final battle

By RAIN JI
Arts & Academics Editor

On Feb. 14, Middlebury women's basketball team challenged the top-ranked Tufts, which holds an undefeated record. The teams had back-and-forths during the first period, with **Lily Kuntz** '20 and **Betsy Knox** '20 as lead scorers. The first quarter ended with 15–14. During the second and third stanza, Middlebury continued impressive plays such as a layup from Knox, a three from **Kira Waldman** '20 and a jump shot from **Michaela Sullivan** '22. However, during the last quarter, the Jumbos rendered the Panthers scoreless during the first four minutes, leading the scoreboard at 57–42. Although Middlebury tried to come back, the game ended with 77–54.

The team finished their season on Feb. 15 with a tight contest against Bates College. During the first two stanzas, Middlebury trailed behind Bates closely. The Panthers were able to cut the score deficit to three points during the third period. The Bobcats and the Panthers fought a close game during the last stanza, as both teams tied at 61—61 with a minute left in the game. The game was forced into overtime because neither could seize an advantage. Unfortunately, Middlebury lost 71–67 after losing possession of the ball with nine seconds left. During the game, **Maya Davis** '20 scored an impressive 26 points and became the 10th player in the school history to reach 1000 career points

This season, the team acquired a 12–12 record.